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# THE LOUISIANA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Vol. 5, No. 1

January, 1922

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*The Commerce of Louisiana During the French  
Regime, 1699-1763.*

*William Johnson's Journal.*

*Miss King's "Madame Girard."*

*New Orleans in 1758.*

*Suit for Damages for Personal Injuries to a Slave.*

*Henry Vignaud: A Personal Sketch.*

*Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana.*

*Editor's Chair.*

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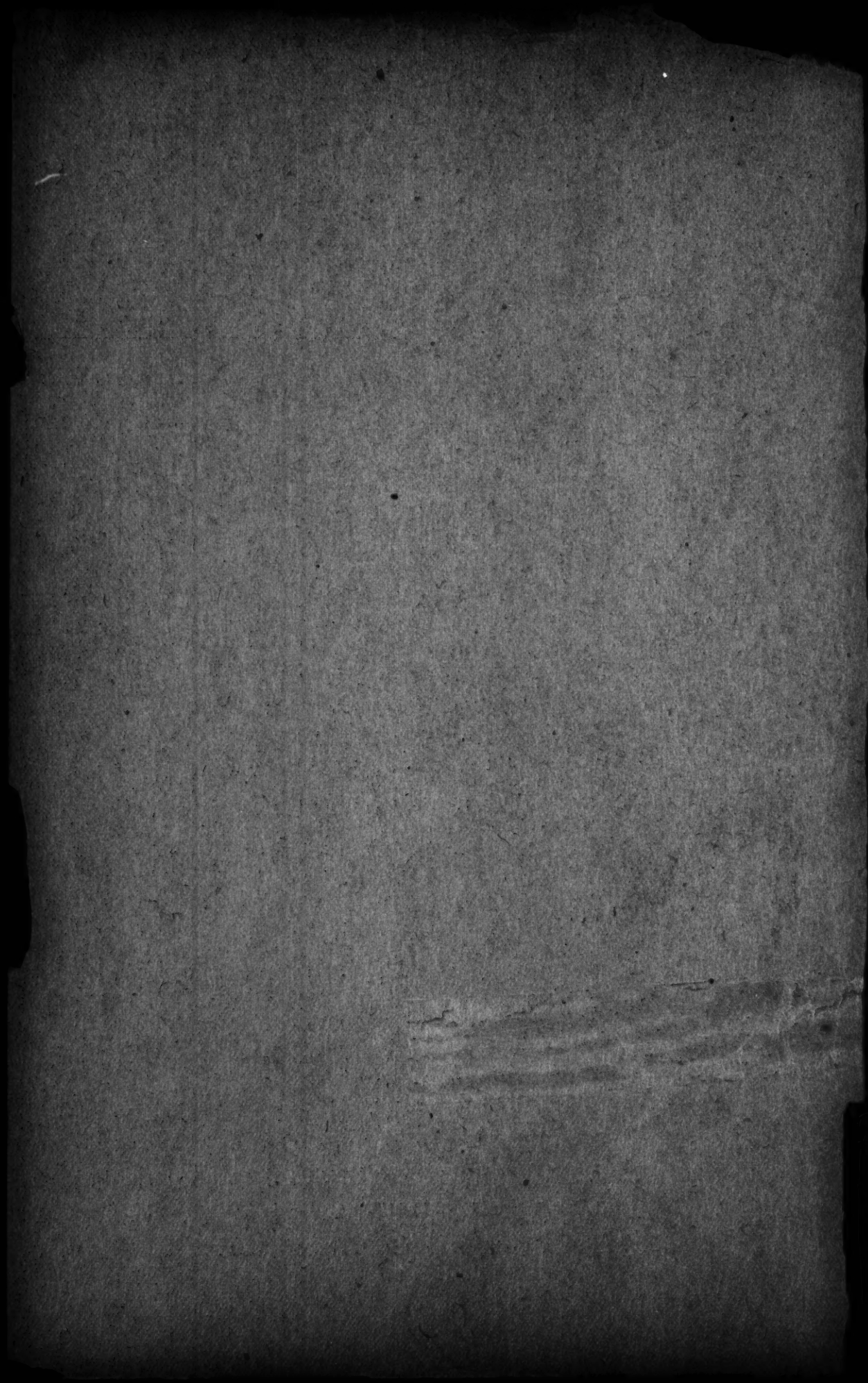
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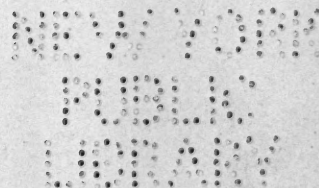
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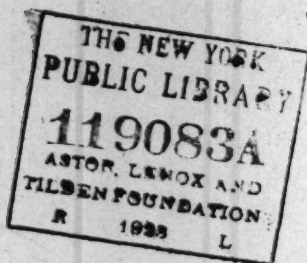


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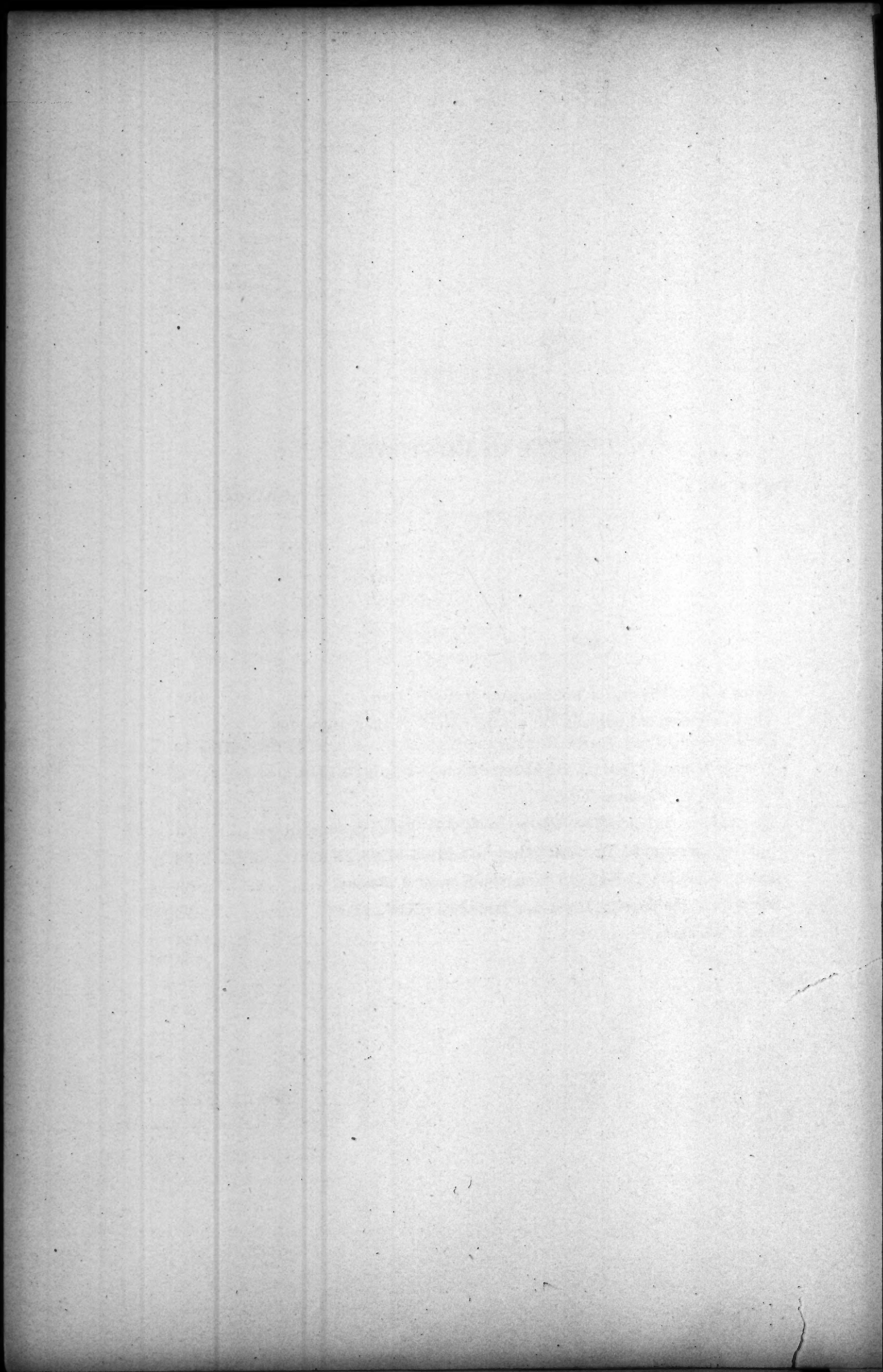
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOL. 5, No. 1

JANUARY, 1922

Remy's Lost History of Louisiana, <i>by Henry P. Dart</i> .....	5
The Commerce of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1699-1763.....	
..... <i>by Grace King</i>	19
William Johnson's Journal--Reproduced from New Jersey Historical Quarterly	34
Miss King's "Madame Girard" .....	51
New Orleans in 1758--The experiences of Wm. Perry, prisoner of war .....	53
Suit for Damages for Personal Injury to a Slave--1764.....	58
Henry Vignaud: A Personal Sketch <i>by Edward A. Parsons</i> .....	63
Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana--XIV.....	76
Editor's Chair .....	118





# THE LOUISIANA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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## REMY'S LOST HISTORY OF LOUISIANA

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*By Henry Plauché Dart\**

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This is the tale of the vicissitudes of an unpublished history of Louisiana written between 1840-1843 by Henry Remy, a frenchman who arrived in New Orleans in 1836 and continued to reside there or in its environs until his death in 1867. During the period 1843-1855 the author published extracts from this history in local newspapers, and the fact had been remembered and noted by Professor Fortier, Mr. William Beer, Miss Grace King and possibly some others, but it was not known, or at least not generally known, that a completed MS. had survived. My interest in the subject was stirred by Mr. Beer, who entertained me one afternoon, a year or two since, with reminiscences of books by Louisiana authors. He has sedulously accumulated a library of these and promises to catalogue them in the near future. The Quarterly has extended an invitation to that veteran scholar to employ its pages as an avant courier for this purpose. While the matter was still vivid in my memory I was surprised one day in the winter of 1920 to receive a visit from Dr. Pierre Armand Remy of New Orleans, the son of Mr. Henry Remy, who talked about his distinguished father and his writings, and promised to return with some of his papers. Several visits followed and eventually Dr. Remy put in my hands what seemed to be the literary remains of Henry Remy. I have gone over this printed and written matter and shall devote this paper to an account of the same and to tell also the little that is known about the author.

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\*Based on a paper read before the Louisiana Historical Society, October 25, 1921.



Henry Remy was born at Agen, Department Lot-et-Garonne, France, in 1810 or 11. This is part of the ancient province of Guyenne where a teeming population was supported on a fertile soil "under the most beautiful sky in France". It is surrounded by the mountains which mark the far reaches of the provinces that line the shores of the Bay of Biscay, and Remy's blue eyes and black hair, and stocky, sturdy frame bespoke the place of his origin. He left the home of his ancestors chiefly because he was filled with an ardent admiration for the Democracy of America, whose virtues had been extolled by De Tocqueville in his famous book which was then in the hands of all young men of France, exercising an influence not difficult to understand even in our day. The young republican had passed through the political disturbances which ended in the rise of Louis Philippe, and he felt the time had come to turn his back upon the country where republican principles had ended. He brought no baggage of any consequence, but his moral assets made up the deficiency. He had received a good education and his home training had filled him with the ideal of truth and honesty in public and private affairs. Indeed he had in him all the elements of a political crusader. His proficiency in french, spanish and italian gave him instant employment in New Orleans, in private tuition and he acquired an ease in our language that makes us regret he did not use it in his literary work. He was befriended by Pierre Soule, who then and for years afterward was a leader in Louisiana at the bar and in politics. Under his guidance Henry Remy read law and was admitted to practice on May 19, 1840. The parchment bears the signatures of Martin, Morphy, and Simon, Judges of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and the signatory inks are as fresh as on the day they were attached. Later on Mr. Remy was appointed a notary public and he followed both professions in New Orleans and in St. James Parish.

While he acquired from Soule a legal training he also imbibed the political principles of his teacher, indeed a common bond existed between them for their friendship survived until death. As a democrat Remy took an active part in all local political campaigns and later on invaded St. James Parish then a stronghold of the Whigs with the avowed purpose of a missionary. He established a newspaper there which will be presently noticed, and he fought the good fight with printer's ink for two years, only to acknowledge in the end that the field would not be



conquered. Before this adventure he had taken part in Walker's filibustering expedition to Nicaragua and he has left a MSS account of that country which unfortunately does not cover the story of the expedition, a lost or unwritten book which posterity would be glad to possess, because he would have made it another Iliad. Perhaps we may yet recover some part of it buried in old newspaper files.

With all this activity Remy found time to marry, and Louise Chapdu of New Orleans was a bright chapter in his stormy, hard working life. The son of this marriage is still with us and it is to his care of his father's papers that we owe the preservation of the MSS we are about to discuss. The French emigrant and his beautiful wife have long since rendered their earthly accounts and the grave that closed over him in 1867 would have ended this sketch in the common way, or probably it would never have been written, were it not that Henry Remy left behind him a manuscript which in our judgment entitles him to literary fame and particularly to be remembered by all who love Louisiana.

In 1843, during the months from May to October, there appeared in the Louisiana Courier, a New Orleans daily newspaper, a series of five unsigned historical essays, written in French and covering La Salle's discovery of Louisiana; the adventure of John Law (the Company of the Indies); the recall of Bienville; the first war with the Natchez and the Finances of 1743. These essays were entitled "Feuilletons" (literary essays) with a second title "Extraits inedits de l'histoire de la Louisiane", (unpublished extracts from the history of Louisiana). In November 1843 two other essays appeared in the same newspaper treating the Spanish Cession of 1763 and Don Antoine de Ulloa. These were signed H. Remy, and the last promised a continuation, but the files of the paper show no further publications. The editor of the Courier called attention to the essay of November 15, 1843, saying:

"We publish today under the title 'Varieties' an extract from the history of Louisiana by Mr. H. Remy. This article which we do not need to call to the reader's attention will, we have no doubt be read with the interest the subject demands and all the pleasure which follows all such work from the pen of our historian of Louisiana."

This kindly appreciation and the public interest must have stirred the author to a more serious view of his work for on Jan-

uary 3, 1844 he issued a prospectus offering for public subscription a History of Louisiana from the discovery to 1844 by H. Remy in 4 volumes 8vo. at \$10 to the subscriber and \$15 to the public. The original subscription list is in my possession and it is a roll of distinguished names in New Orleans in 1843. There are 148 signatures whose combined subscriptions insured the delivery of 160 sets of the work or an initial guarantee of \$1600. But the work was never issued, although we now know it was ready in MSS, and possibly we may find the reason for this in the printed prospectus which may be considered the preface to the proposed history. In this the author explains the reasons which had led him to compose it and he expounded the principles which had governed his point of view. As to the reasons, he said, "the first need I felt on coming to Louisiana almost eight years ago, was to know the history of the country in which I was to live. I considered it a duty to inspire myself with its manners, its customs, its traditions; to judge of the progress it had made, of the route followed; to admire its wisdom and respect even its errors. I believed I owed this homage to the new country I was making my own."

His efforts to educate himself on the lines he here indicated were quickly appreciated, he said, by the friends he had made, who hastened to place at his disposal the few books they possessed but the reading of these books produced, he says, "a feeling of unsatisfaction", and doubtless others since Remy have had the same feeling. He found nothing therein which "elucidated the foundations of our history, nothing of the manners which give to each period its local color and makes it distinct from that which follows; (of) customs which explain so many events otherwise incomprehensible and above all (nothing of) the people, that great figure which struggles with so much energy and which in the colonies takes on such individual character; the people especially seemed absent. Instead of these there stood a lifeless chronicle of facts, so indifferently narrated we were sometimes compelled to doubt their authenticity."

To appreciate the hardihood of this criticism one must remember that this was in 1844 and that Martin and Gayarre were the historians whose "lifeless chronicle" is here described. Martin had published his history of Louisiana in 1827, and Gayarre his *Essai Historique* in 1830. Both were enjoying the full sunlight of public appreciation. Blind old Martin still presided over the



Supreme Court, his eyes were dull but his ears were good and his tongue sharp. Gayarre was in his prime, just 39, he had held several offices, had been elected and resigned as Senator in Congress; and had spent eight years studying our archives in France and Spain; he had a printed history to his credit and was at that moment serving in the State Legislature, reviving a political career which was to do so much for our local archives. He was ripe in political and literary experience and his great reputation was at its zenith. Here in short, were the two giants against whom this newcomer had flung his little pebble. But not only had he thrown a pebble; he followed it up with a statement of principles to be adhered to in his book intimating that his predecessors had failed to understand the true functions of the historian, and inferentially it was suggested that his narration would, moreover, show they had deviated from the facts and had written for a coterie rather than for posterity.

Whether Gayarre took contemporaneous notice of this attack, whether in his own circle he stripped the skin from this audacious youth of foreign birth, the chronicle is silent. We may answer the question, however, without attributing to Martin or Gayarre any effort to dam this new stream of history. In fact, we do not need to go further for our answer than the last paragraph of the prospectus where Remy clearly intimates that his account of the fiery years which succeeded the admission of Louisiana as a State would "stigmatize unmercifully" the iniquities of that era wherever they existed, be it under the name of American or Frenchman or native! Since Remy's time we have found many methods of stigmatizing current "iniquity" but it would require little argument to maintain the view that neither American, Frenchman, nor native was ready in 1844 to pay to perpetuate it between the covers of a book. We may be sure that a vivid pen can always find something to "stigmatize" in history, but the writer does not often approach the victim with a proposal to sit for his own picture and to pay for the operation. Human curiosity might have responded even in 1844 if it had been certain that it was the other chap who was to be skinned! It is said our creole forbears were past masters of the unpleasant art of turning the cold shoulder on undesirable acquaintances and we may safely assume that Remy received the cold shoulder and a douche besides!



The history was not published and we hear no more of Remy the historian until 1854. On the 18th of February in that year there appeared the first number of a newspaper published at St. Michel, (now Convent) Louisiana. It bore the name of its place of publication, "Saint Michel", and carried the announcement that it was to be a literary and political journal published weekly in the Parish of St. James, left bank.

The only indication regarding its owner and editor is a line on the last page "H. Remy & Co., Editeurs pres St. Michel". This paper was a four page sheet 8 in. by 10 in., well printed in french three columns to the page, on good white paper, which still preserves its color. A unique feature of the first seventeen issues is the numbering of the columns in sequence, carrying these from one to two hundred and four, when he abandoned that method.

In the first issue he printed under the heading "feuilleton" an essay entitled "Decouverte de la Louisiane I." and further installments appeared under that title until the seventh issue, when it was changed to "Histoire de la Louisiane"; the last publication appeared in the 65th number of the paper; the issues for these essays covered the history of Louisiana from La Salle's discovery to 1750, comprising fifteen chapters and a part of the sixteenth; the newspaper ran however for two full years, 104 issues, the last number being dated February 16, 1856.

In the interval (on December 10, 1854) he announced in his paper that the interest which the chapters had excited had determined him to publish the work in book shape, and on February 24, 1855 the "Saint Michel" carried a front page advertisement of the

History of Louisiana, from its discovery  
to the Constitution of 1845.

By H. Remy.

"This work," (the announcement said,) "would be edited and published in the office of Saint Michel under the eye of the author himself, will appear each month in parts of thirty two pages, large octavo de luxe, and enriched with vignettes, pictures, maps, and plans. To accomplish this last object, the author has assured himself of the cooperation of an excellent painter and an engraver of the first order. The price of the subscription is fifty cents per part, payable on delivery, the subscribers engaging themselves to take the entire work."

This announcement indicated, I think, that the author intended to use his own printing shop for the publication, and possibly the material as already printed in his columns. It was further said that the book would be put on sale at St. Michel, New Orleans, New York, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Montreal. This advertisement was carried in Saint Michel until the end of its career, but no copy of the proposed work seems ever to have been published, at least no copy is preserved in the papers left with me.

On May 1, 1855, Mr. Remy deposited the printed title as above set out in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States at New Orleans, and obtained the usual certificate assuring the copyright thereon. Here the matter rested, but the memory of the publication in Saint Michel survived and mention is made of it in Prof. Alcee Fortier's *Louisiana Studies* (1894) p. 26, who says the work was "well written", and that it was to be "regretted this history was discontinued when the author had only gone as far as 1731", which would indicate that Prof. Fortier had not seen a complete file of Saint Michel. Fortier's little memorandum, however, preserved the memory of this new attempt at a history of Louisiana, and now and then some bibliophile would make an effort to locate the "book", but to all intents and purposes it was lost and its existence was becoming legendary.

When Dr. Armand Remy called on me in 1920 I learned from him that his father had left a completed manuscript of the history, and shortly thereafter he very kindly brought it to me. I was both gratified and surprised to find here a complete history of Louisiana from the earliest day to 1815, written, of course, in French, but in shape for the printer's care. Three separate manuscripts have been delivered to me. The first is in loose sheets on linen paper in the author's own hand and comprises 247 pages. Finger prints and other printer's marks indicate this is the manuscript used in the Saint Michel articles, and the assumption becomes a certainty when we find it ends in the uncompleted sixteenth chapter as published in that paper.

It would require critical examination to determine the date of composition or of the rewriting of the other two manuscripts, and then the result would still be in doubt. One MS. stops at 1805, the other continues the story through the trial of General Jackson before Judge Hall in 1815. The first has a dated folder or cover on each quire of paper, which is stitched through the mid-



dle with red tape. The other is arranged in like shape without the cover. These dates run from June 1842 to October 1843, and this is *prima facie* evidence that this particular MS was copied out in that period. When we go into more minute examination we find in each the same confusing characteristics concerning corrections, additions, alterations and interlineations, so that after all has been said while it would seem that the MS. ending 1815 is the final copy, yet under the conditions described I can not decide it. The future editor of the MS. would have to read and possibly utilize both as parts of each other.

The author evidently used a quill pen but he produced a marvelously small script; to read it a magnifying glass is almost necessary. It is written on one side of linen paper 8 x 13 in size, in good ink and averages 520 words to the page. It is divided into periods (French, Spanish, and American), and subdivided into books and chapters. Thus for the French period Book I contains four chapters, covering the period 1682-1706; Book II seven chapters, 1706-1717; Book III four chapters, 1717-1723, and Book IV ten chapters, 1724-1765; in all about 165,000 words. The Spanish Dominion, 1765-1803, is allotted one Book with nine chapters, aggregating less than 100,000 words. The American era, as far as it goes, approximates 120,000 words. The whole work would therefore run to about 400,000 words.

Considering the importance of the Spanish period in Louisiana History, our first comment, judging on the surface and considering the length particularly, is that the author could not have had access to source material that would make his essay a material contribution to our knowledge of the period. I fear it will on further examination appear that Remy was limited by his position to such local authorities as existed here at that time, such as Gayarre's well documented pages and he possibly reexamined some of the material then still extant in our archives. On the French period his work is a valuable restatement of what perhaps may be found in his predecessors, Martin and Gayarre, and in the French and Spanish authors of the same period, but it has been very carefully done over and he has made a much more readable story than either of our leading historians. The regret that must be emphasized is as to the unfinished part. His account of the American period is very engaging and this would have been a substantial addition to our history had he carried it down to the Constitution of 1845.



The foregoing narrative shows that we have solved the mystery of Remy's *Lost History of Louisiana* and it only remains to be added that by the kindness of Dr. Remy the Louisiana Historical Society has now been made custodian of these precious and valuable papers; he has also deposited with us a complete but unbound file of "Saint Michel". He has given us permission to translate and to publish the History, but the cost of editing, translating and printing would be considerable, and even if this were provided we would still have the problem whether it would be a successful financial adventure. There are students among us who might be willing to give their time to minimize the cost of editing and translation. Who will do the rest? Let us continue to hope that there are among us some public spirited lovers of our State who will undertake it.

As this is a narrative of discovery and not the efforts of a critic I must leave the study of the MSS. with this parting word, that in my judgment we have here a history of Louisiana which should be rescued from oblivion. Even though it would contribute nothing to our knowledge, it justifies itself in its lofty spirit and high intention. It is briefly the story of Louisiana told by one who had obliterated his foreign birth and been born again with love for Louisiana, her people, and her institutions, and it fills the reader with joy and satisfaction. He follows a straight course, setting down the facts, and enlivening them with a human understanding and a philosophic acumen that is very engaging.

But the Spanish period is the acid test of any history of Colonial Louisiana, and here we have to make comparison with Gayarre, who told the truth and stated the facts as it was given to him to understand and tell them, but Gayarre was of Spanish origin on the paternal side, and his forefather was one of the men who made history in Louisiana under that flag. The historian was an able lawyer but he was kinsman to the cause. He wrote a splendid brief for his Spanish client and while he could not forget his maternal blood and there was no truer or sweeter heart in French Louisiana than his mother, a daughter of a great French Creole, he contented himself with stating the truth of the actual occurrences and did not and could not go beneath the surface to seek the causes that stirred Lafreniere and his associates to the revolt that ended in their own destruction. Whether Remy fills this gap in our history can only be decided when the MS is translated. It is my conviction that he has at least restated the

case from a point of view that permitted him to see some things that Gayarre seeing could not in human frailty be expected to judge in their proper light. We may in fact surmise from our knowledge of Remy that he has written of this period in the interest of historical truth. His memorable words carried at the head of his first chapter would justify our faith in advance. "When I began this work", he says, "I swore to be true and I am conscious I have not failed in it." The Spanish regime in Louisiana is not discredited by this version. The motives, the scruples and the actions of the new rulers are set before us, but the same treatment is accorded the Louisianians. We may in this way understand the one and admire the other, yet our imagination will have been quickened by the new record. Martin's first impressions will, I think, be strengthened, Gayarre's lack of sympathy with the natives will be forgiven, Cable's fevered views of those people will be overlooked and the Louisianians of 1765 will be restored to the position they should always occupy, the proud position of martyrs in the cause of human liberty.

It is of course impossible to make comparison between authors in print and authors in Mss., particularly when the Mss. is not current speech. Fearful that I might have been carried away by the willingness to find corroboration of what I have always believed, I submitted a part of the MS. on the Spanish question to a judge of profound learning, wide reading, and accurate judgment, one who by association with Gayarre and love and respect for his memory would hold no bias against him. That exceptional judge is present with us tonight. Miss Grace King has pleased our imagination with her fiction, educated us with her school books, illuminated our past with her biographies and swayed and governed our judgment with her histories. "New Orleans, the Place and the People" is her kingdom where long may she rule! I know you will applaud my discretion in selecting her for my judge. Listen to her opinion and decree:

"The reading of the Remy manuscript has been much more difficult than I expected, owing to the minute handwriting. I have so far been able only to go over the account of the Lafreniere revolution and the trial and execution of the patriots and I would like to give you my impression of this before proceeding to the 'Domination.'

"I felt after my long imprisonment in the Gayarre and Martin histories as if I had suddenly been ushered into the open air,



or rather as if a light had been turned on in a dark room. What Remy has contributed to the narrative is a new view of the documents. I cannot discover that he has added any new documents themselves. His style is fine, simple and direct, his judgment is impressive. The description of Ulloa constitutes a wonderful portrait and it explains his miserable handling of a mission that had, in the first place, no tragic importance, the unfortunate issue of it was due entirely to him, at least so Remy convinces me.

"As for the description of O'Reilly, that is a masterpiece. His sinister function in Louisiana history is clearly portrayed. He was the hired executioner of the King of Spain. What he did was legally done. I suppose there is no kindly way of cutting off one's head. His cruelty consisted in a predetermination to find the patriots guilty and thus to secure the pleasure of executing them. There seems no doubt that the carrying out of the sentence gave him pleasure.

"A piece of very fine writing is the unfolding of the base and treacherous motives that worked on the cowardly Aubry to make him a supple tool in the hand of O'Reilly.

"The pages describing the patriots are matchless in our history. Lafreniere at last has found an able defender in history. His character, his patriotism, his heroic conduct when his movement failed, his defense before the Spanish tribunal, his death, I cannot speak about these pages without enthusiasm. The description of the trial is new to me, and all the slow development of the legal procedure to secure conviction (one hundred and fifty witnesses were examined); but I am surprised to find that he places the execution in the Place d'Armes instead of the barrack's yard, according to the report of it made by the officer in command.

"Remy's shrewd political remarks are very illuminative. He evidently has studied his subject with careful eyes and although he is frankly a revolutionist and an enemy of Spain, he writes fairly about the events under scrutiny. In truth, he gives altogether a better idea of what the Spanish domination accomplished in Louisiana than any other historian."

Through the kindness of Dr. Remy as I have just said, this MS. is now in the custody of the Historical Society, with the promise that we bestir ourselves to have it translated and published. The Society is a body with large visions and a small al-

lowance. It yearns to seize the opportunity to do this great task for the people of Louisiana, but its yearning is futile before an empty treasury.

Having talked so long about Remy and his history, I should be merciful, but I feel you would like to hear something from the work itself. (The speaker here read a translation made by Mrs. H. H. Cruzat from the chapter on the arrival of O'Reilly at the mouth of the river and closed with the passage describing his interview with Lafreniere, Marquis and Milhet, the deputies of the people)\*

"The deputies accompanying Boulogny arrived on board the frigate Thursday (14th) about four o'clock in the afternoon, just at the moment she passed over the bar of the river. O'Reilly's envoy left the Louisiana deputies for a moment and conversed with the new governor, and then introduced them to him. The deputies before O'Reilly, held by his piercing eye, momentarily lost courage. Lafreniere swiftly recovered, but the Spanish Commander had noticed his emotion and that of the other deputies, but he remained impassive and listened to Chauvin's discourse:

"The people of New Orleans have chosen Marquis, captain of the Swiss troops, Milhet, lieutenant of Militia, and Lafreniere, attorney general of the King, to assure Your Lordship of their submission to the decrees of both monarchs, and their admiration for the talents and generous virtues which have elevated you to this high position. We are commissioned to express their love and fidelity to the King of Spain. They never would have been tempted to stray one instant from the respect due to the great monarch you represent if Ulloa's rudeness and the annihilation of the most important guarantees of the treaty of cession had not transformed the colony into a camp of discord and hatred. Let not Your Highness then look upon us as a country to be conquered. The orders which you carry suffice and the people will submit to them more promptly than to your arms. Accustomed to an easy and gentle government they dread naught but oppression and your presence will make this disappear. You will certainly not refuse them your protection if they request it and we rely on your justice to guarantee the privileges of the necessary delays to those who would wish to retire.'

"This is no longer the Tribune of the popular assemblies, the man who beforehand obtained decrees for whatever he had de-

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\* It is our intention to translate and print chapters from the History in later issues of *The Quarterly*.—Editor.



terminated. Words fail him, he is embarrassed as if regret and remorse had robbed him of energy. Lafreniere has a presentiment that he must forego his fine projects and he anticipates the end. His despair may easily be understood, for hope has suddenly crumbled before this austere face. To feel that inquisitorial eye upon him, without one ray of light that might show the trend of his emotions, to be certain that this man will be his judge; this was enough to paralyze the most wonderful talent, but between them, as yet, there is no struggle. O'Reilly thus answered the deputies:

"Gentlemen, for a just appreciation of any act, preceding facts must be examined. On reaching New Orleans I shall give my earnest attention and shall use my best endeavors to clear up this unfortunate affair. You shall see that my ardent desire is to do good. If I am obliged to inflict punishment, it will be with profound regret. I shall afford to all the means necessary to prove their innocence. Therefore tell the people not to be anxious and assure them of my good will. I congratulate you on the resolution you have taken for I would have known how to enforce respect for the flag of Spain. I would have gone to Illinois if necessary. Men who are carried away by their frenzy do not realize the importance of their acts. You had flattered yourself that you could resist the most formidable power of Europe, and perhaps also, that His Most Christian Majesty would uphold you against the King."

"After these words which were no doubt a cunning trap set for them, able to wound only men deserving blame, Marquis rose to interrupt him.

"Be patient!" answered O'Reilly, "I have already promised you, Gentlemen, that in New Orleans I shall listen to all claims. Thanks be to God I bring here neither aversion nor prejudice, and I do not ignore the fact that things that at first seem very dark appear in a more favorable light on closer inspection."

"O'Reilly immediately closed the audience but this brief and energetic discourse must have made the deputies anxious. He gave them to understand that he was informed of past events; that though he was inclined to be indulgent, his strength of purpose would not forsake him in any exigency. This alone held more promise than any other governor had given. This interview was short and O'Reilly was severe and brief as befitted his mission. When all concerning it was at an end he treated Lafreniere, Mar-

quis and Milhet, as one would who was accustomed to the manners of courts and extended to them a most gracious welcome. He was careful to avoid in their conversation all that related to past events and honored them by ordering a sumptuous feast. The meal lasted long, conversation lingered and night surprised them still at the table. The night was brilliant and marvelous, lit up by the moon that shed its light on the waves of the river and the sea, and over vast solitary tracts. O'Reilly stood on the deck with the messengers from New Orleans. The scene brought to mind the circumstances of their presence on board, they had forgotten it, and they promenaded in silence. Suddenly O'Reilly stopped, and grasping the arms of those near him, that man whose character has been so long and so often caluminated, exclaimed: 'Ah! Gentlemen, what a fine night to go away!' then, as if he had said too much, he resumed his silent promenade. These blindly stubborn men would not understand the merciful advice conveyed by these words. It was serious and full of weight. The orders of the King of Spain to the Spanish governor designated the culprits and among them were the deputies. His serious and weighty administrative views had greatly astonished these men, unaccustomed to such talents in the men placed over them. They made a very favorable report to the people and narrated all that took place during their visit, followed by the words he had said. These reports which O'Reilly's envoy repeated and embellished almost stirred the population to regret their arrogance and independence."

How vividly that whole scene is pictured for us by Remy and how cunningly he conveys O'Reilly's meaning. We seem to be standing on the frigate's deck on that mild night in July 1769 and our memory clutches at that careless warning, "Ah! gentlemen, what a fine night to go away." The judgment to be rendered by posterity hung for that moment in the balance. Alas, Lafreniere and his followers heard, but heeded not, and the bloody record of the ensuing months was made more horrible to the victims who had not understood what "a fine night it was to go away".



## THE COMMERCE OF LOUISIANA DURING THE FRENCH REGIME, 1699-1763\*

*By N. M. Miller Surrey, Ph.D., Columbia University\**

*Critique by Miss Grace King.*

As the author explains in her preface, histories of Louisiana under the Regime of France have been little more than narratives of events, and her recent contribution, begun as a seminar paper, is intended, within the field chosen, to remedy this omission.

Without delay, let us assure the reader that the omission has been not only handsomely remedied, (as she puts it), but obliterated as far as human knowledge can predict. Never again will the need of such a book be felt by historians; never again will the field it covers present a barren surface to the student.

An appended bibliography contains the titles of the works consulted and all the contemporaneous manuscript material on the subject found in an exceptionally complete search among the sources of information not only in the United States but also in France. There seems no virgin soil left for a new comer in the field to preempt.

Louisiana has ever been a spoiled child of American historians, who have treated her more as some charming character of fiction than as a sister in the sedate family of States that counts as members Rhode Island and Vermont—to select at random. She seems to beguile the serious, even the ponderous, student into forgetting all but her events, as Mrs. Surrey says. But now Louisiana has met one who can and does shut her eyes to the allurements of romantic stories, and rigidly and impartially administers the justice of historical facts and figures.

The introduction is an admirable one, giving a short resumé of the current history of the Province, as it appeared to the author, before beginning her thesis; prosaic and dry, to be sure, with all its component parts strained out, as is done in the making of bouillon, in order to leave the resultant liquid clear with full

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\* (Studies in History, Economics and Public Law—Columbia University, New York, 1916.)

flavour pure and condensed. One who is habituated to the other kind of history is amazed at the marvelous art of Mrs. Surrey, in straining out her clear historical solution. Some ten pages contain all the introduction and there is still room to spare, when the Province passes under Spanish rule. But one small error is noticed, the inevitable one it seems to be, so constantly is it repeated by historians—of calling the first French fort built on the Mobile River, "Fort St. Louis", instead of "Fort Louis de la Mobile."

The chapter that follows the Introduction, is one of the most interesting of the book. It is on the Waterways of the great Valley. She opens it with the plain matter of fact geographical statement: "It (the valley) is drained by the Mobile and Mississippi system and a few single rivers flowing directly or indirectly into the Gulf of Mexico . . . . Nine of the chief rivers of the Mississippi system, together with the principal rivers of the Alabama net work, afford sixteen thousand miles of navigable waterways . . . . The navigable rivers of the Mississippi Valley, indeed, opened to the French such a scene of inland navigation, as cannot be paralled in any other part of the world!

"The waterways of Louisiana were rendered still more serviceable by the discovery of many convenient portages from one to the other branch of the same river system . . . In order further to increase the utility of these natural highways, the French on the lower Mississippi constructed canals either for the purpose of making a more direct route to the Gulf of Mexico, or of joining the Mississippi with bayous at the rear of the settlements."

She quotes from the archives of France, a well known item of local interest in New Orleans, that in 1724 one large landowner across the river from the City, alone, had between eight and ten miles of such canals, and that the Royal administrator of public works had established water connection between New Orleans and Barataria Bay by a canal twenty five feet wide and a little more than three leagues long, which was finished in 1739-1741, from which the colony derived considerable profit from the export of lumber through it. *Par parenthèse*, this is the canal that furnished Lafitte so ready and easy an access to the markets of the City during the palmy days of smuggling. It is now used by the fishermen and trucksters of Barataria, the peaceful descendants of the smugglers, for the transportation of their farm products. As early as 1721, that is, while the City was in pro-



cess of being founded, it was proposed to construct a canal between Bayou St. Jean (Not *Bay* St. Jean) and Lake Pontchartrain. This was accomplished a century later, and it is now still used by various craft in the daily traffic between the City and the Parishes on the western side of the Lake.

The pages devoted to the pioneer struggles to locate the "great river" of the Indians, and to find a route to it through the Lakes and the network of little streams that flowed toward it, have all the interest of novelty. They are clear and direct, and through them the reader gains an original view of the many geographical and political complications that worked together to thwart the French in their advance toward possession of the Valley during the following century. The glorious and tragic episode of La Salle, the shining figures of Marquette, Joliet, Allouez and Tonti, do not, as in other histories by more self indulgent historians, absorb the attention, diverting it from the majestic importance of the great continental problem.

In ordinary sequence, we are led in the next chapter to Navigation. With the exception of the Chicasaws, who we are told were much afraid of water, the Indians used the rivers as highways. As early as 1700 the French were sending boats from the Gulf of Mexico to the Illinois country, and we remember that it was in that same year that La Sueur left Biloxi to go up the Mississippi to the mines supposed to be located on the upper waters of the river; the first, but not by any means the last, of such wild goose chases.

After the establishment of New Orleans, the growing importance of the trade along the Mississippi made it more and more desirable that ships from France should land their cargoes in closer proximity to these places. To that end Bienville in 1722, in face of violent opposition, succeeded in having Biloxi abandoned, doing away with the only port on the Gulf and forcing vessels to go directly to New Orleans. This brought to view the shallowness of the River at its mouth, or rather mouths, and the bars that formed from the silt. This is carefully noted by the author, and she gives the measures taken by the government for the relief of ships entering and leaving the River.

In 1717, the home government ordered the royal engineers to make soundings to ascertain the length of the bars and the depth of water on them and the rapidity of the current. In 1719 explicit orders were sent to examine the bars with the view to

their removal either by dredge or other device. By 1722, after a trial of both dredges and dykes, it was believed that the River itself could be made to remove all the bars to its entrance (the Eads plan). In the meantime, however, a Government pilot was stationed at the Balise bar with a small vessel to "lighter" the cargoes of incoming vessels, and for twenty five years thereafter vessels passed into the River to New Orleans without obstacle.

The internal navigation of the province throughout the period of French occupation was served by boats which from time to time made voyages to all parts of Louisiana, but the greater number of expeditions were made by convoys of twenty or more boats. Sometimes a military escort was sent with them. The best time for these journeys was to leave the Illinois country for New Orleans about the beginning of February, when the water was high and flowing at the rate of five miles an hour. At this time the land on both sides of the River would be flooded and the Indians would be engaged in hunting, which insured travellers against their attacks. Convoys left New Orleans between August and November. The Government sent out annually two convoys from New Orleans, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn.

The next step in the book, is from Navigation to Boats and here also the conscientious investigator proceeds slowly and surely, leaving nothing behind her uninvestigated or unexplained. This chapter is full of information that a student naturally wishes to find without the labor of searching through encyclopedias.

The French naturally began their navigation of the Mississippi and its tributaries, in boats like those used by the Indians, that is, in canoes made of bark and covered with yellow pine pitch, so light and strong that they could be carried across portages on the shoulders of four men. They were increased in size from seats for one or two men to a capacity of twelve or fourteen, and three or four hundred pounds of merchandise. In course of time "Master canoes" were built, the "maitre canots" of the French; thirty-six feet long and four wide used in military expeditions. The Indians south of the Ohio gave the French the model of the "dug out" canoes which are still used in Louisiana where they are called "pirogues". They are, as the name implies, dug out or burnt out of a solid log. The cypress tree furnished the best logs for the purpose. From a one or two man boat they were improved by the French until the larger ones measured from forty to fifty feet long and three to five wide, with a carrying



capacity of thirty men. They were propelled with paddles and steered with an oar fastened to the stern; when the wind was favorable, a sail could be used. The Company of the West during its control of the Province owned many boats of this kind; but by far the most of the pirogues were owned by private persons.

It was not uncommon for twenty to thirty pirogues to come to the Capital from the Illinois in a single convoy. In Louisiana the pirogue maintained its popularity throughout the French period and as has been noted, is still used in the interior of the State; their simplicity of construction and strength recommending them.

However, neither the bark canoe nor the pirogue answered the needs of the Province, and variations from their types soon began to appear, and hence the confusing list of water craft with names that burden the narratives of the early explorers; the "cajeu" (the primitive form of our floatboat), the "felouque", brigantine, barque, bateau, "traversier", employed as transports and armed to repel attack, they made frequent voyages between Mobile and New Orleans to Mexico and Central America and Havana. when provisions needed replenishing.

Many experiments were made by the home government and much money was spent to provide boats for official service in Louisiana, but it was invariably discovered that the boats were more used for the private trade of the government staff than for public services. The history, in detail of the various kinds of boats used at the time and the friction between the government and the officials in Louisiana about their service and the controversies in regard to them, is rounded out with a description of the vessels plying between the Province and France, furnishing several pages whose interest is fresh and attractive, although they are not especially a part of the history of Louisiana.

The chapter on Highways, opens out the collateral view of our subject. When the French entered the Mississippi Valley they found two sorts of highways fairly well marked out, buffalo tracks and Indian trails. At their origin undoubtedly distinct and separate they were sometimes, in whole or in part, identical. For example, the Indian and buffaloes entered the Mississippi Valley through Cumberland Gap and continued for some distance into the interior over the same road before they divided. The buffalo paths were the routes the animals took in going from one to another of the great prairies, or in going from their pastures to the

drinking places or salt licks. Year after year the herds passed over the same path, always a direct line between the two places. As would be expected, the paths were worn deep and the earth packed so hard that no vegetation ever grew on them.

The track or trace, as it was called by the pioneers, was usually spacious enough for two wagons to go abreast, and where the buffalo wandered over it for a thousand years in their journey to the salt licks, it was in places five or six feet deep. The buffalo roads to the West of the Mississippi aided the pioneer in his advance westward, and as Thomas Benton remarked at a later date, "buffalo blazed the way for the railways to the Pacific."

Indian trails led from their villages through the surrounding country from one Nation to another. Trails between the Illinois and Fox, in the Illinois country, and between the Chicasaw and Choctaws in lower Louisiana, were for the most part war paths, and for this purpose were of use to the French also. They became trade trails. "Along them" to quote the author in one of her rare moments of relaxation from a rigid style, "long trains of pack-horses were driven in regular Indian file, the veterans in the van, the free horses driven along to relieve the worn out ones in the rear. After the order of march for the day was arranged the chief driver cracked his tough rawhide whip, gave an Indian war whoop, both of which were repeated by the other drivers, and at once the train set off at a brisk trot, which was not slackened as long as the horses were able to go forward. Each animal wore a bell, which at the start was muffled by means of a twist of grass or leaves. It soon shook out. Nothing further being done to stop the noise, which was increased by the Indian whoops and the curses of the drivers, the day was filled with a continuous uproar. When two of the horse trains met on the trail, they saluted each other several times with a general whoop and other shouts of friendship; then they struck camp near each other." In their well known preference for waterways, Frenchmen seldom made use of such pack trains. They were in the main English devices for carrying on illicit trade in Louisiana, east of the Mississippi.

Later, when the Mississippi Valley fell under the control of the English, some of the Indian trails became well known roads. For example, the trail through Cumberland Gap to the Falls of the Ohio came to be known as the Wilderness Road. To the west



of the Mississippi the route followed in going from the Illinois country to Santa Fe, although not used as a highway by the French, became later the famous Santa Fe trail.

In their settled areas, the French made some effort in the direction of road building, working at first according to the French law of 1699, that regulated such matters in the mother country. Governor Perier changed the old road law to make it fit conditions in Louisiana. It was decreed that persons owning land along the Mississippi must make a clearing along the River front to the depth of three arpents (sixty six feet) and they were to plant posts of a regulated height and dimension, for the convenience of vessels landing there. The owners of the land were to build and keep in repair a levee six feet wide and not less than two feet high near the water's edge. Upon the levees there was to be a foot and a bridle path; and on the land side of the levee from the Capital to Gentilly and Bayou St Jean, a wagon road forty feet wide. The owners of the land were required to keep the road and its bridges in repair, but the burden was not so great since only the part of the law referring to the levees was enforced.

With the growth of New Orleans above and below the original settlement the levee was extended, and by the end of the French control there was a good coach road along the river, fifty miles in length, eighteen miles of which was below the City. And as we read in old narratives by travellers, when a vessel was detained for a considerable length of time at "English Turn" waiting for a change of wind, passengers wishing to hasten the time of their arrival in the City, disembarked here and finished the journey by land.

In New Orleans the streets were laid out in much the same way as the highways outside. On either side there was a ditch two feet wide and from one to one and a half deep, so as to render the streets passable for carriages and even for foot passengers. Up to 1732 the bridges over these ditches were made of wood. As this entailed a large annual expense for repairs it was proposed that for the health and convenience of the people all such bridges should be made of brick, since no lumber in contact with the ground and subjected to the damp climate of New Orleans would last above a year or two at the most. As many of the inhabitants were too poor to bear the expense if it were borne by the householders alone, it was planned to secure a part of the money at least by a tax of five sols a head on all negroes.

The highways to the Kaskaskias and thence to the Mississippi were maintained, not by the owners of the land through which they passed, but by the community. A road led from Kaskaskia to the other French settlements in the Illinois country.

In the Illinois country small native horses, hitched tandem, drew a two wheel cart over the road. Heavier loads were drawn in large carts by oxen, yoked by the horns. In the lower Mississippi the two wheels carts were usually drawn by oxen, horses being used chiefly for riding and for carriages. Before the end of the French Regime, a large majority of the well to do persons in Louisiana owned some sort of conveyance and horses or oxen. In New Orleans there were carriages and coaches; carriages were brought from Havana in 1730; coaches were brought in by Bien-ville three years later, after which the number of both increased rapidly. In 1735 almost all men of means at the Capital owned a chaise, and two horses; and there were some who had berlins.

The chapter on the financial history of the colony throws a light on the complicated question of the monetary troubles of Louisiana that the modern scholar is grateful for. The only coins in circulation in Louisiana during the earlier years of its existence were those brought over by the colonists themselves or received by them from sailors for provisions. Efforts were made by small traders to secure piastres from the Spanish settlements nearby. But they did not remain long in the province because on the arrival of the first vessel they were carried to France on the return voyage. With the growth of the colony the necessity for small currency began to be felt acutely, especially in the settlements on the Gulf. To meet this demand a coinage of copper money in twelve and six denier pieces was provided to be used exclusively in the American colonies. The coinage was soon stopped, however, and it disappeared, leaving behind only the expression "sol marqué" as a kind of fossil buried in the depths of local parlance (still used among old creoles to designate the lowest form of value).

After the retrocession, says the author, the Crown sought again to place the finances of Louisiana on a specie basis by sending over silver and merchandise to meet the yearly expenses, and later tried to meet its obligations with merchandise alone, but was forced to fall back eventually on the use of bills of exchange as a means of retaining specie in the Province. The specie, however, was drained off (inevitably) until in 1733 there was scarce-



ly enough metallic currency in the treasury to meet the government obligations for the ensuing six months.

In order to preserve what there was, orders (bons) were issued by the local treasurer to the amount of 55000 livres to move the tobacco crop and the employment of bills of exchange was recommenced. So serious grew the shortage of specie, however, that card money was issued similar to the kind used in France, and the Governor and the Ordonnateur worked to create a sentiment in favor of it. But the financial condition became no better, but worse, until the Crown refused to sanction further increase of bills of exchange.

Between 1739-1763 paper money was practically the only form of currency used in Louisiana; and its various emissions by the Government steadily increased the fast growing confusion. The opportunities it offered to speculators produced a continual succession of crises against which neither the home government nor that of the colony seemed to prevail, and the only remedy applied was the recall of profiteering officials to France, where they were usually sent to the Bastille.

The depreciation of paper money that began in 1730 progressed into a rapid decline until in 1743 silver and bills of exchange stood at a ratio of two to five, and in some instances reached three to one. Ordinances followed giving settlers time in which to redeem their treasury notes; but failure to present them made them valueless. Very naturally many of the colonists and others in the home country asserted that one of the chief causes of financial disorder in Louisiana was the maladministration of the "Ordonnateur", who was recalled and another, a man of ability, as it was thought, sent as his successor.

The charges against the first one, upon investigation, were not proven. This refutation was reinforced by the new Ordonnateur who was able to criticise but few of the methods employed by his predecessor. Instead he boldly attributed the cause for the financial disorder chiefly to the Crown who had annually supplied inadequate means to meet the colonial expenses, and to the method by which European merchants carried on trade in the Province.

Accusations against LeNormant himself were made by Vaudreuil, his Governor, and a new Ordonnateur, Michel de la Rouvilliere, was appointed. An irregularity on his part caused a dispute between him and Governor Vaudreuil, which brought a reprimand to both.

In 1752 La Rouvilliere was recalled and Rochemore appointed, who immediately upon arrival forwarded to the Home Government his plan for the financial relief of Louisiana, whose financial condition he represented as desperate. His intrigues, however, against Governor Kerlerec, who had succeeded Vaudreuil, and the public clamor that ensued against him in consequence, nullified his honest attempt to straighten out the tangle into which the financial affairs of the Colony had fallen. The bitter struggle between him and the Governor reached its climax and Kerlerec finally practically ousted him from his position and himself formulated a plan to improve the currency, which he communicated to the Crown.

The author says that notwithstanding the fact that his plan would have gone far toward the solution of the currency problem, nothing was done to enact it into a law. Foucault (celebrated in the revolution against the Spanish Domination) now became Ordonnateur and employed the intriguing Rochemore as his secretary. D'Abadie replaced Kerlerec and the troubled history of Louisiana finance passed, under the Spanish Regime.

The chapter on trade is the most laborious in the book and the most expressive of the author's gift for sustained conscientious effort. As with other subjects, she begins at the very beginning, that is, at the settlement of Louisiana. Iberville and the men who followed him to the discovery of the mouth of the Mississippi thought of no profit from that adventure but such as they had learned to expect from the tales of the Spanish adventures, mining and peltry. Agriculture, the very basis of colonization, they considered so little that the mother country was obliged to send them their foodstuffs from France to keep them alive, and when the vessel with provisions did not arrive on time, want and even famine, reigned, forcing Bienville to seek aid of the Indians and help from their supplies.

One of the first labors of the settlers was to build a great storehouse at Dauphin Island to receive the Government supplies, which were to be drawn upon for the support of the garrison and for the purpose of trading. The colonial officials however, taking advantage of this last permission, drew out from the storehouse great quantities of merchandise which they sold on a profit of six times the cost in France. As we know from reports, written at that time, the profits did not find their way into the Royal treasury, but into the pockets of the officials and according to the



scandalous gossip of Mobile, into the pockets of Iberville and his brothers and their coterie of officers and intimates, who were often accused of selling to the Spaniards at Pensacola food of which the colonists were in want. The LeMoyne brothers never cleared their reputation from the odium of this suspicion. Iberville, with his practical good sense and experienced judgment, finally told Ponchartrain, according to Charlevoix (quoted by the author) that in his opinion and in that of the men who knew about American affairs, Louisiana would never be settled unless its trade were thrown open to all of the merchants of the kingdom.

As we remember, this was one of Iberville's ambitious schemes, to make a free port in Louisiana, or failing that, to capture one from the Spaniards in Central America, and by means of his vessels dominate the Gulf, preying upon the commerce of Spain and establishing a stronghold that would forever assure to France dominion over the Gulf of Mexico. Iberville was without doubt the man to carry such a scheme into effect, with the army of buccaneers and privateers that he could have rallied about him. But the authorities in France far from listening to such bold suggestions set themselves to the more ignoble work of finding some financier, who for a monopoly of the trading privileges of Louisiana would relieve the Crown of the onerous honour of its possession. Such a one was found in Antoine Crozat, who undertook the miserly scheme in 1712, and obtained letters patent from France empowering him to carry it out. He proceeded to enforce his monopoly with the rigid and short sighted severity of all monopolists. There was no trade, except what could be extorted from the settlers or from the beggarly garrison at Pensacola, or from the Indians. This was to be exploited for the benefit of Crozat alone. Under no circumstances were foreign traders allowed in the Province. When a ship arrived carrying a cargo sorely needed in Louisiana, the merchandise was not permitted to be sold and naturally a clandestine mart was opened where these same goods were sold by the ship people, at six hundred per cent profit, while the peltry of the colonists was bought by them at any price the purchaser chose to pay. For three years Crozat held his contract, which was fast proving ruinous to him and to the colony, when he was allowed to surrender it to the government.

The company of the West now made a trial of the same contract and carried it out in a more liberal and enlightened way. The Company was merged in 1717 into the Company of the Indies under John Law, and the celebrated Mississippi Boom gave a golden setting to the name of Louisiana in France. The "boom" became the Mississippi Bubble, the greatest commercial failure in Colonial history. Louisiana, however did not go under the wave of disaster, but rode out the tempest into assured prosperity, with its population increased, its lands portioned into farms, and its rich soil producing like the gold mine of which the pioneers had dreamed.

In the meantime New Orleans, through Bienville's efforts, was established upon the Mississippi, to which vessels came often and regularly, touching upon the inward and outward voyage at the West Indies. They brought settlers and merchandise and took away peltry, lumber, tar, pitch, rice and tobacco, the latter the richest crop then on the market. But when after Law's failure Louisiana became a Royal province, there were the same complaints made by the officials to France about the poverty of the Country, the same accusations, recriminations, and abuses between officials and about the same irregularities.

Governors and secretaries vented their tempers against the Colony and the colonists with acrimonious exaggeration. The financial troubles, as we have seen, were made the most of and the Colony was represented to the Crown as peopled by vagrants and good-for-naughts, destined to an existence of want and humiliation, a source of expense and indeed, of shame, to France, hopeless as a financial investment, and fit only to be cut adrift and cast away, as it was practically later when it was ceded to the Spaniards.

The story must seem, and indeed was, a melancholy one to a reader not to the manor born, but we of Louisiana, who know our history of events rather than the history of statistics, know this period differently, as the one in which great private fortunes were accumulated in the Colony; when New Orleans began to build its spacious brick houses, and to be known as a city of luxury and pleasure; when its young men were sent to Europe in quest of education; when the d'Etrehans, Marignys, Livaudais, de Pontalbas entered the social history of Paris and of their own city shining like gods in the panoply of their wealth.



As for the moral worth of the population, the answer to the bitter denunciation of them sent to France by Abadie, the Royal Ordonnateur, is found in the noble and spirited uprising against the Spaniards, and the dauntless zeal of the Creole patriots in facing the extreme penalty of the law in the defense of their political liberty.

The chapter on the "slave trade", like the other important chapters in the volume, opens its subject at the very beginning of the Colony, and continues in a straight line of treatment until the cession to the Spaniards; a method that insures a complete exposition of the matter in all its bearings, but deprives it of many circumstances of interest, which would lighten the reading of its pages. In Louisiana Indian slavery as we know, preceded that of the African. There was a trade in slaves carried on by the Indians of the Mississippi Valley before the French came into possession of the territory, and they soon discovered that it was necessary to buy war captives, in order to deal successfully with the natives. In 1700 the French found the English of Carolina among the Chicasaws buying slaves; and asserted and reasserted that the English created wars between the different Indian tribes in the interior, solely for the purpose of securing captives.

In 1702, Bienville began exhorting the Choctaws and Chicasaws to abandon the English as they only aimed at making slaves of them. His argument convinced them for a while and they entered into a general peace that lasted for nearly three years, when they resumed hostilities, and again the English came among them to buy their captives. Under the circumstances, as the author says, it became necessary for the French to adopt the methods of the English; and they even went so far in their imitation as to create wars for the purpose of securing prisoners. In order to put an end to this the Crown issued a decree against it, and all officials were directed to do what they could to put an end to the disorder. The Frenchmen were clever enough to carry on the traffic secretly and thus escape punishment. The Indians it seemed, frankly favored the slave trade.

The officials of Louisiana then requested the Home Government to allow them to exchange in the French West Indies, Indians for negro slaves; the rate being fixed at the rate of two of the former for three of the latter. The proposal was rejected by the Government, which was averse to promoting any form of slavery.

The unprofitableness of the trade in natives, together with the inability of the owners to keep their slaves from running away, and the Royal opposition to it, forced the French of Louisiana to finally abandon this form of servitude.

The number of Indians, held as slaves in Louisiana, was never large and by 1744 the number was only 122. As the French were not permitted to exchange Indian Slaves for negroes from the Islands, they requested a supply from Africa. In 1712 Crozat's patent gave him the exclusive right to bring annually to the Province one cargo of slaves from Guinea; but he made little use of the privilege.

The Company of the Indies owned a right to a trade in slaves which was extended to include Louisiana but no importations of negro slaves were made until 1721, when the Company landed in Louisiana the largest number ever brought over in a single year, one thousand three hundred twelve. Thereafter almost every year ships came to the Province with cargoes of slaves, until by the end of its control, the Company had transported more than six thousand negroes.

The author gives a very interesting account of the various proceedings attendant upon the arrival of a slave ship in port, the visit to it of the government officials and medical examiners; the careful measures taken to separate the sick negroes from the well, and the subsequent sale of both lots. The Company found it necessary to regulate the trade by special legislation, and when it surrendered its patent and the Crown took over the government of the Province, in 1731, appreciating the importance of negro labour for the development of the land, it began to look for ways and means to augment it.

The pages that follow present these in detail with tables giving the variations in the selling prices of negroes, sold singly or in groups of man and wife, and a couple with sons and daughters; also diagrams portraying the number of negroes landed in the Province during the years of the French Domination, in which are included the number of Indians held in slavery during the same period. These carefully tabulated statistics throw a light on the repulsive story of African slavery in Louisiana, which so far as the present writer knows, has never been viewed with such cool, dispassionate judgment and clarity of vision. These pages are inestimable, indeed, not merely to the local investigator but to the student of general United States History.



The concluding chapters of the splendid volume roll on, a rich stream of detailed information, with the steady momentum acquired during their precedent course: "Domestic Trade of Lower Louisiana"; "New France in the Fur Trade"; "Trade of the Illinois Country"; "Fur Trade of Louisiana"; Trade with the French West Indies"; "Trade with Mexico"; Trade with Florida"; "Trade with Cuba"; Trade with the English"; carrying the subject to the end. Want of space, not of will, precludes presentation of them here.

As will doubtless have been seen and remarked by the reader, the reviewer in the contemplation of such patient and thorough going scholarship, such loyal and unwearied devotion to a large and complicated theme, feels her powerlessness to do more than render homage to the author and to use long quotations from the author's own words; but she hopes that enough has been done to make others enjoy her appreciation of the rare quality of the author's work, and profit by the rich yield she has extracted from her field, and placed at their convenience.

"A tout seigneur, tout honneur!"



## WILLIAM JOHNSON'S JOURNAL

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*A Voyage from Pittsburgh to New Orleans and Thence to New York in 1801—Described by William Johnson of New Jersey in His Contemporary Journal Published by the New Jersey Historical Society in its Quarterly Magazine for January and April, 1922.*

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By the courtesy of the Editor of the New Jersey Quarterly we are able to lay before our readers a unique account of the trading adventures of two young natives of New Jersey who brought a boatload of merchandise from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to New Orleans in April 1801. It is an interesting story, illustrating the keen business instincts, thrift and courage of the two Jerseymen. We have heard much of the Westerners who sought fortune in like manner in the Spanish Province of Louisiana in the period when that regime was tottering to its fall, but this journal shows that the young men of the eastern seaboard had but little to learn from their western brother. We get a glimpse also of the extent of the traffic on the Mississippi from the West in the years just preceding the shutting of New Orleans to American Trade. It enables us to understand the excitement caused by that famous order of Morales, the Spanish Intendent, which stirred President Jefferson to action that two years later brought Louisiana into the family of the Union.

The whole Journal of William Johnson is not published in full in the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, but the part that relates to his adventures in Louisiana is apparently complete. The story of the voyage out of New Orleans to New York is unique in its description of the perils of the sea encountered in coastwise navigation. We know of no other relation of a voyage of this nature.

It appears William Johnson was a native of Newton, New Jersey, youngest son of Captain Henry Johnson, an officer in the Revolutionary War, a man of good standing in that State. His son was just twenty-two when he started upon the journey which he faithfully records in his diary. He was accompanied by "Sammy", an older brother, who seems to have been equally quick and keen, for the journal shows good team work from beginning



to end. William started on horseback from Newton on September 30, 1800, reached Pittsburg, 338 miles away, on October 9, met there his brother "Sammy" and entered into a partnership with him to carry a boatload of flour, apples, cider, whiskey and brandy to New Orleans, to be exchanged for "Spanish produce" and which in turn they intended to transport by sea to New York.

Their boat of thirty tons was built for them at a cost of sixty dollars, they traded the horse for wheat, purchased other wheat and had it ground into flour, and completed the cargo with the articles previously mentioned. At daybreak, February 10, 1801, they began the journey from Pittsburgh for New Orleans. Unfortunately we have no details of the trip down the river until they reached Natchez on April 7, 1801, where they were advised there would soon be a glut in flour in the New Orleans market on account of the "vast quantities" coming down the river. They quickly decided to unload the whiskey and brandy at Natchez, leaving "Sammy" there to sell it while William hurried on with the flour to New Orleans.

At noon on April 9th, William resumed his voyage and reached New Orleans at nine o'clock in the morning of April 14, 1801. He speaks of "setting sail" but it is probable his boat was propelled by oars as well. This five day trip from Natchez to New Orleans was unusually quick time in those days. We take up the story from this point in the shape it is printed in the *New Jersey Quarterly*.

HENRY P. DART.

#### THE JOURNAL

"Apl. 8.—(Natchez). This morning brother Sammy and I concluded it was better that one should stay here awhile in order to sell the whiskey and brandy, and the other should proceed to New Orleans with the flour, there being such vast quantities of flour to come down that the market in town will be glutted before we could do our business and get down together. Accordingly, this day at 12 o'clock started on with the flour and passed on till dusk, at which time I landed on the Mississippi Territory shore, having taken four hands along." (Next day he had a narrow escape from having his boat lost. He gives an elaborate account of the affair).\*

"14.—Set sail this morning all well and at 9'oclock A. M. we, with expressible pleasure, arrived at the city of New Orleans a

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\*This is not printed in the *New Jersey Quarterly*.

distance from Pittsburgh of 2,120 miles. Though not taken from actual measurement, yet it will not be found to vary very materially, from the true distance. New Orleans is a large and beautiful town, containing about 1,600 houses and about 11,000 souls. The streets are narrow but regular; the houses have principally flat roofs, and are mostly elegantly built. The whole city is inclosed in either walls or pickets, at every convenient part of which are iron gates through which all persons or carriages must pass to go in or out of town. Sentinels are kept night and day both at the gates and at every short distance on the walls and pickets. A garrison is continually kept in the city and contains three regiments of Mexican and Havana troops. A governor and attendant are the principal officers of justice before whom all causes of whatsoever nature must inevitably come. It is considerable of a maritime town. The exports are cotton, sugar, rice, indigo, hides, skins, furs, etc., and imports mostly articles of European manufacture. The town lays 35 leagues from the mouth of the Mississippi, which is in some instances difficult to ascend. The tides not setting up any distance whatever is the principal cause. The inhabitants are Spanish and French; the French language is mostly in use, though there are a number of Americans in town. New Orleans is the seat of Justice and capital of Louisiana Territory, belonging to His Catholic Majesty, the King of Spain.

"15.—This day went to the Custom House and made entry of my cargo, and am to have permission to unload and sell to-morrow.

"17.—Last night I was taken severely with the cholera morbus, which lasted the principal part of the night. I am this day in consequence quite indisposed, but able to walk about. This evening made sale of my flour, to very good advantage."

On Sunday April 19 the author "went to church" (probably to the Cathedral) which he says "is elegant". He was impressed by the "alter with rich statues and vessels of gold and silver" but being a dissenter the service and the surroundings did not appeal to him, but "the music" did. "In the morning the full set of organs played and in the afternoon the military band." The latter began with the President's march and sundry other Spanish ones and "dismissed" them "with a horn pipe".

"Apr. 20.—This day sold the boat load of flour that Bro. Sammy and I purchased of Martin Lincoln on our passage down the Mississippi and made a tolerable good speck.



"21.—The boats now come in very fast and the price of flour begins to decrease.

"22.—I believe the boarding-houses in this town are full as good as any in the United States, but the price of board is high, being from six to twelve dollars per week.

"23.—Arrived at this Port to-day, the ship "Ocean", Capt. Harrison of New York, 600 tons burthen, copper-bottomed. She expects to take a cargo of flour and cotton for Charleston.

"25.—Some talk in town that the 'Ocean,' of New York, is an English ship under pretence of American Owners, and that she will be detained here as good prize to the Spaniards.

"26.—Br. Sammy arrived from Natchez, all well.

"27.—There being no vessels in town that will sail to any port of the United States within some time, Br. Sammy and I talk something of purchasing flour again, which we can do at a much cheaper price than what we sold at, and go with it to some of the West Indies, and from thence take passage to New York or Philadelphia, and, if we go to the Havana, or Cuba Island, we can in all probability make that voyage and be as soon home as if we were here to wait the sailing of some vessel immediately to New York or Philadelphia.

"28.—We finally concluded on the Havana voyage, and agreed with Capt. Manwarring of the Ship 'Ocean,' of Portland, for freight.

"29.—Partly agreed with a man for 300 barrels of flour; to see him in the morning. Br. Sammy went up the coast to see how flour sells there.

"May 1.—Seven vessels arrived at this port, the most of which want to purchase flour. One is the ship 'Neptune,' of Philadelphia, Capt. Hackquin, and wants freight for New York. Quite indisposed.

"2.—This evening took an oyster supper, when 13 of us drank 27 bottles of long-cork claret.

"3.—I found the long-cork had a good effect on me, I feel this day tolerable well. The 'Ocean' takes in her cargo very fast but I expect she will have to cease a while for the holiday during which no work can be done here.

"4.—Flour begins to rise, large quantities being wanted for exportation.

"5.—Agreed with Capt. Manwarring to pay him \$3.25 per barrel to Havana, and we have cabin passage free, we paying or finding sea stores; to sail in 10 days.

"8.—I was this day surprised to see a circumstance of relationship take place between a Creole and his nephew. The Creole was a Captain in His Catholic Majesty's service, and boarded at the house I did; his name was McCabe; an impious, tyrannical fellow. His nephew resides on the Coasts, and this day unfortunately happened at the coffee-house, where Capt. McCabe was sitting with some gentlemen drinking wine. After he saw the Captain he walked to him and said. 'How do you do, uncle?' upon which the enraged Captain ripped out some vile execrations at him for calling him 'uncle', and stepping to the door, ordered two of the guard to take him to the callaboos, where he actually remained some days only for calling his relation by the right epithet. He was not dressed so very well, yet, notwithstanding, I think he had nothing in his manner of behavior or address that was a dishonor to the great Capt. McCabe. I should think it extremely inhuman if either of my uncles was to put me in a gaol for calling him by that name. But away with monarchical governments, I say.

"10.—It being the custom of the place to have dances on Sunday nights during a great part of the year, and having had an invitation, I this night, in company with a number of gentlemen, had a curiosity of going to the Ball. At 8 o'clock we got there; I will only say that the room was elegant, the ladies very beautiful, the music good, and everything that could render the evening amusing and agreeable was well adapted.

"11.—This day Br. Sammy and I got orders to have our flour alongside, which we did and commenced putting it in; but are fearful that, the ship being already so full, ours will not go in; and this we cannot blame the Capt. for, because we were the last that contracted, and, although he expected the ship would contain ours and more too, exclusive of his previous engagements, yet was not certain and mentioned it at the time.

"12.—This afternoon we found our flour would not go in, sure enough. Well, what are we to do? Part is now in the ship and part on shore. We at last concluded that it would be most advisable to sell again that which the ship will not contain, for which cotton can be obtained at a low price, and that I, instead of going to Cuba with Br. Sammy, should get a passage and freight



it to New York with me, and let Br. Sammy go on with that now in the ship to Havana, and from thence to New York.

"13.—Accordingly, we this day bartered our flour for cotton, and have also fortunately obtained freight in the ship "Neptune", Capt. Hacquin, bound in about 12 day for New York; am to pay him \$5. per hundred for cotton and \$50 for passage exclusive of sea stores, which will cost me as much more.

"14.—Tomorrow the 'Ocean' sets sail, and the Neptune will be here yet 10 or 12 days, I have concluded to get all ready and go in the 'Ocean' with Br. Sammy, as far as the Balise, at the mouth of the Mississippi, and there stay till the 'Neptune,' in which I go to New York, shall come down. Accordingly, got my cotton aboard and finished custom house ceremonies, got my bills of lading and passport.

"15.—This morning Br. Sammy and I went on board the 'Ocean', and at 12 o'clock set sail. After getting under way Capt. Manwarring fired a Federal salute, after which, and usual ceremonies, we went into the cabin and drank a few bottles of long-cork claret wine, accompanied with some excellent patriotic toasts.

"16.—Last evening the 'Ocean' came to an anchor at dark. Wind arose this morning and she again set sail. Cast anchor at sunset.

"17.—Set sail this morning and came to Pluckamin Fort, where we had to come to and show our passports, papers, etc.

"18.—Set sail, wind fair, and at 2 o'clock arrived at Fort Balise, where I leave the ship and crew in order to wait till the 'Neptune' arrives. Came to anchor, all well.

"May 20, 1801.—Still calm and clear weather. Received an invitation to dine at the Commandants of the Balise; in consequence of which the Captain, Mr. Parsons and myself went on shore, where we were sumptuously entertained. The dinner was excellent, consisting of great variety of dishes of the best kind and well cooked, and, what added to its grandeur, was the presence of the Commandant's three daughters, who were truly handsome and amiable. Returned to the ship at dusk.

"21.—No appearance of wind yet, and, should it blow, it will answer no purpose, unless from a northwest course, and that at 10 o'clock A. M., at which time it is high water. The pilot says there is not water sufficient on the Bar unless it is in high tides, and then the wind and current will force the ship through the

sand and mud, even should she draw more water than is over the Bar, but the above circumstances must prevail.

"24.—This morning the wind, as expected, blew from the N. E. The Pilot came on board and, at 9 o'clock, weighed anchor and set sail. I, being anxious to stay as long as I could before I departed, and wishing to know how the ship got over the Bar, concluded to stay on board and return in the pilot boat to Balise. Sailed on and passed the old wrecked ship 'Star,' at which place the pilots and all the men pulled off their hats and huzza'd thinking themselves out of all danger; but what was our mortification when, in about one minute afterwards, the ship ran aground in 11 feet of water, she at the same time drawing 13 feet 10 inches. The pilots tried many ways to get her off, but failed. Fortunately, the schooner 'Parragon' lay about a league off, the Captain of which (Capt. Nichols) came on board. After he saw we were aground, Capt. Manwarring employed him to lighten the "Ocean" for the sum of \$600. Capt. Nichols then warped alongside his schooner, and at 4 P. M. began to discharge the cargo of the ship and put it aboard the 'Parragon'. Having the crew of both vessels, they at 2 o'clock in the morning had the "Ocean" floating, after which she dropped a little down and anchored in five fathoms of water.

"25.—The 'Ocean' now being ready to reload, the schooner dropped alongside and commenced the business immediately at 4 P. M. This day they got all her cargo in again. It now became time for me to depart, as the ship was soon to sail. Accordingly, after bidding Brother Sammy and the passengers adieu I left the ship and went in the pilot boat to the Balise, and took up my residence with Commandant Ronguille, until the ship 'Neptune' arrives. At six o'clock from the lookout house I saw the 'Ocean' weigh anchor and set sail, and God grant them a prosperous voyage.

"I received the utmost good usage from Co. Ronguille and family. They are all Spanish, but just speak enough English as to make out to be understood a little; in other cases they have an interpreter. This evening Mademoiselle Fannetta Ronguille had a severe fit of, I think, Hysterics. She is subject to them, which is a great pity indeed, for she is a very amiable and beautiful girl, as also her two sisters.

"28.—Went aboard the 'Neptune' and found my fellow passengers, consisting of nine, all clever fellows with much the ap-



pearance of gentlemen, and I begin to think we shall have an agreeable voyage to New York. The cabin is large and contains good berths and other accommodations. As the number, including the Captain and mates, will make but thirteen, we shall not be incommoded by numbers.

"The 'Ocean' of New York arrived here this day from New Orleans, and drew upwards of 16 feet water. Captain Harrison has employed a schooner to lighten her to go over the Bar, for which he is to pay \$1,200.

"29.—In the fore part of the day Capt. Harrison of the 'Ocean' and his lady, Capt. Hacquin and two passengers came on shore, and dined at the Commandant's, after which they and Madam Ronguille, the three Mademoiselles Ronguilles and myself went on board of the 'Ocean' and drank tea; returned 8 P. M.; we had a very sumptuous entertainment.

"30.—Capt Harrison and lady, with a number of gentlemen from the 'Ocean' and 'Neptune' came on shore after tea and had an agreeable dance; the company consisted of those above mentioned, the three Mademoiselles Ronguille and two other young ladies living nearby, and myself. At 2 A. M. dispersed, all well.

"June 1.—This day Capt. Harrison, Capt. Habir of the Spanish man of war, Mr. Osborn and myself, went out on the beach to shoot rabbits; went in a yawl to a place called 'The Garden,' where was a number of fruit trees, such as figs, oranges, pears, peaches, etc.; saw a number of rabbits, but could not stay to shoot them on account of the flies and gallynippers, which were so numerous that it was impossible to keep them out of our eyes.

"2.—This day there arose a breeze. Capt. Hacquin sent for me to come on board. At 10 o'clock the anchor weighed and we set sail, as also did the 'Ocean' of New York. After we came within a mile of the Bar we discovered the 'Ocean' to be aground, she being before us. Our Captain was then alarmed for fear we should experience the same fate, which he soon realized. The 'Neptune' also stuck on the Bar exactly opposite the 'Ocean,' but Capt. Hacquin immediately started the water off the decks, after which a little breeze sprang up, and she again got under way, and fortunately got safe over, after which we anchored in order to take in water again. At 9 o'clock P. M., the ship having watered and all things righted, we weighed anchor for the last time, set sail and put to sea. Course S.E. by E. We left the 'Ocean' fast

on the Bar in, I think, about nine feet of water. As we got properly to sea, the ship began to rock, but I was not so much of a sailor as to walk steady or even keep my feet without catching hold of the quarter-railing, shrouds, or anything I could get hold of, in order to keep from falling. I had anticipated the effects the motion of the ship would have on me, and knew it would make me sick; I therefore kept on deck, but soon found my expectations were not ideal, for at 10 o'clock I leaned over the gunwail and, in spite of every effort, hollered out: 'The ship is made of oak, oak, oak.' After a few transactions of this kind I made out to crawl to my berth and, though as sick as a horse, by some means or other I fell asleep.

"3.—This day the wind blew brisk and the ship danced about merrily. I ate nothing this day. I shall not make many observations you may depend—oak, oak, oak!

"6.—All the passengers are getting able for their allowance again. Fell in with a schooner bound for Havana—all well.

"7.—This is my birthday and makes me twenty-two years of age, which day I generally eat strawberries in Jersey, for the first time in the year, but I don't think I should find any if I were to walk out today; therefore I shall stay in the ship, and by that means not get my feet wet in the sea hunting them. Still unfavorable winds from the S. E.

"10.—Winds as usual, and make but little progress on our voyage. This evening bathed in sea water. I believe I shall now weather the oak, but it has pulled me down confoundedly though. I have got a good appetite, and if I don't get some fever, or some sickness, I think I shall like a sea life very much..

"16.—This morning found a current setting two and half knots to the N. N. W. Capt. Hacquin and mates could not account for it, not knowing of any such in the Bay. They, therefore, began to think that the current had, during the calms, taken the ship into the Gulf of Florida, as the stream sat in that direction. At 12 by the quadrant we proved to be in latitude 25° 49', which made them almost positive, as every circumstance spoke loudly in favor of the idea, of being in the Florida Gulf, which, if true, must have been good news to us, because it would be a distance of 150 leagues nearer our port of destination. The Captain, therefore in order to make sure of such a supposition, laid the ship due west, to see if he could discover land, the Gulf being but 20 leagues wide at this place, or at the place in which we supposed



we were. But judge our mortification this evening at sun set, after sailing a distance far enough to discover the keys on the west shore, when no land could be seen from the masthead, and we were consequently obliged to 'bout ship and stand to the S. E., it being reduced to a certainty that we were yet in the Bay of Mexico, and a greater distance from the Gulf that we had been six days previous.

"18.—Find the water begins to grow low.

"19.—Capt. Hacquin informed us that the water was in a likely way of being exhausted before we should get to our port of destination, or where we could get a fresh supply, owing to a number of casks, upon examination, being found empty, having leaked out; and that he feared it would be necessary to put passengers and ship's crew under allowance and thereby prolong its duration by being less profuse; which we readily agreed to, not from choice, but from fear of suffering, as there appeared a necessity for so doing. Two quarts per day was agreed upon. This afternoon a violent gale arose attended with rain. Sails all closed. Landsmen very much frightened.

"20.—I find that fresh water is a very great luxury at sea. Two quarts per day is not enough for coffee or tea twice a day to cook dinner with, and what is wanted to drink. However, if we get no less before we arrive in New York, I shall think all is well. Under way of 3 knots.

"21.—Light winds till 5 o'clock P. M., when a circumstance happened that had nearly cost us our lives. We observed a squall of wind and rain rising in the southward, which drew quite near us, when we perceived a very large water spout in a cloud that attended it; which spout the wind was driving exactly towards the ship. The Captain endeavored to run to the windward of it, but, before he could effect it, the water spout drew so near the ship, and the suction was so great, that he was obliged to have all the sails clewed up, and lay the broadside of the vessel toward the spout to prevent the effect of the suction. It was, nevertheless, so great that it drew the ship down quite on her beam ends. The Captain then took the helm, very much alarmed indeed; looked as white as chalk and only said: 'For God's sake don't alarm the sailors!' This was the critical time, as from every appearance the ship would in a few minutes strike the spout, the effects of which would be that all the water contained in it, between the cloud and the ocean, would immediately fall on the ship; and how could she

stand the effects of thousands of tons of water falling on her at one dash? The solution is that there could scarcely a vestige remain and not a soul could escape immediate destruction. While everyone was contemplating his fate, then apparently immediately impending, and while death stared in all its ghastly forms before us, being then within one hundred yards of the spout, we with all the ecstasies of joy possible to conceive, observed it begin to cease, and the ship gradually to right, and soon become so favorable as to admit of the sails being set; and by that means was able to get to the windward.

"22.—This day a fresh sea breeze, lat.  $24^{\circ} 32'$ . We now use frugality in all our sea stores.

"23.—This day we overhauled our biscuits and found it scant, for the prospect of our remaining passage; we, therefore, concluded to come under allowance, conceiving it better to eat a little less and make it last thirty days than to eat it all in twenty and go without the other ten. Our poultry is yet in abundance. Water and biscuits are all that are lacking.

"24.—Wind tolerably fair and quite brisk; course E. S. E. We this day begin to think we are not far distant from the Tortugas, and keep a good lookout for them, as every person on board is very anxious to see them; the currents are so fluctuating and various in the Gulf, that the Capt., etc., have lost the longitude. We have, in consequence, been beating about here 22 days, and know nothing of where we are, except it be our latitude, which we find to be to-day in  $25^{\circ} 5'$ .

I come now to relate a circumstance which occurred this evening of a most serious nature. At 5 o'clock P. M., one of the sailors from the masthead cried out 'Land!' which appeared on the starboard bow, upon which the Captain and other officers, from what calculations they could make, thought it could be no other than the Tortugas, (consisting of) three small, dry reefs lying to the S. W. end of the Floridas. He, therefore, put about the ship and stood S. S. E. in order to run between the Tortugas and the Colorados, which last lays to the N. W. end of Cuba Island, and consists of shallow water full of small reefs, rocks, etc. Continued this course till sunset, when the Captain sounded, but could find no bottom at 100 fathoms, and laid her S. E. by S. The wind at this time was fair and was making about three knots; the moon shone bright, the evening pleasant and everyone seemed overjoyed to think we were in a likelihood of getting into



the Gulf Stream of Florida, as the common run from there to New York is about 12 days; and we began to think of taking off the allowance of biscuit and water. We were thus all on deck amusing ourselves, and anticipating a speedy arrival at our much-wished-for port, when, at three-quarters past seven, what was our surprise, astonishment and mortification as the ship all at once struck a rock. All were amazed, all confounded; no one could speak; no one could tell what was the matter; at least five minutes were spent in this insensate manner when the Captain ordered the sails clewed up and, with the lead line, found that at the starboard side lay a rock but 9 feet under water, the ship at the same time drawing upward of 16. And on the larboard side there were two rocks not more than 12 feet below the surface of the sea. This was a critical time; and what was to be done? The ship lay hard and fast between the above-mentioned rocks, and lay with her keel on others, and began to surge, and every sea that came she was in danger of being dashed to pieces like an egg-shell. What made us fear this event more was her being a vessel upwards of 20 years old, and consequently her timbers not in a situation to stand hardships. This circumstance induced us to pray for the wind to cease blowing, and thereby occasion less swells to cause the ship to encounter severe surging; and here I must mention that it seemed as if the wind ceased to blow, almost immediately after we struck, on purpose to secure our preservation.

The first thing done in order to extricate and float the ship was to get the sheet anchor out, in order to do which the long boat was hoisted. When in the act of letting the anchor in this boat, she was so leaky that she had nearly sunk before the anchor could be raised out of her again. This would have been a great misfortune, provided the long boat had sunk, as in all probability it was to be our last resort. The next expedient was to get a spar on the large starboard rock, with a watchtackle, to see if she could not be thrown out of her present situation by hard straining; this too proved abortive. All seemed, therefore, to offer nothing favorable. One means were yet to be used, which, if that failed all was inevitably lost, and this the Captain and other officers asserted was the only way to preserve the vessel and crew from destruction. This was no other than to throw overboard so much of her cargo until she could get afloat. The second mate took the yawl and found that, if the ship could be put immediately about

after getting afloat, there was a passage through which she might pass, being about three fathoms deep. This gave us some hope; and every passenger and man aboard went to throwing overboard cotton, as this was the only loading that could be got at. We continued throwing over cotton till 2 o'clock, at which time we had discharged 20 tons, and she still kept surging on the rocks and apparently as fast as ever.

"All were now disconsolate, as from every circumstance there appeared but very little hope, and few thought of nothing else but perishing. We began now to think of having some other resort than the wreck, and, as the long boat was the only one, we concluded to have her hauled up and caulked, take the main top sail down and spring it taut over the boat for a kind of deck, erect a little mast and fix a sail thereto, put a sailor at the helm, and tie the sheet of the sail around his middle, and in this manner put to sea. This would carry about two-thirds of the crew. We were, therefore, to cast lots who should go in and who should stay aboard of the wreck. For my part I should have been indifferent about the result of my change, for I should as leave stay and perish aboard the wreck as to starve to death in the long boat, as no one could have taken more provisions than he could have put in his pockets; on account of the anxiety of taking as many as possible in it, and the reason of it being so laden with the crew, no provisions or water would have place. The probability of getting to any inhabitants in such situations before all or most perished, is very uncertain and very seldom happens. The long boat for the above purpose was drawn up and caulked, etc., by which time daylight appeared.

"25.—Everyone seemed struck with redoubled despair, on seeing our situation by daylight; rocks on every side everywhere interspersed about us, some dashing their ghastly appearance out of the water every surge. Nothing but gloom and despair now seemed characteristic in every countenance, and, if anyone spoke a word, it would be, 'We shall all perish.' What mind that never experienced such a shock could feel our distress on being told the ship had sprung a leak! Both pumps were set at work, but, on sounding the water in the hold, it was found to increase. This was a severe misfortune, and everyone was called up to attend to his fate in the issue of casting lots to take to the long boat. With countenances that indicated the feelings of their hearts all appeared, and with feelings which did honor to human



nature, and words that would melt the heart of adamant, the Captain informed us all was lost; no means that seemed to the bounds of human capacity could now save the ship, and it was our indispensable duty to try every means in our power to save what lives the little probability the long boat afforded. He was only sorry, and lamented it could not contain the whole crew; and therefore wished immediately the die to be cast, to know on whom the lot fell to go in the boat; upon which those at the pumps cried out that they began to lower the water, which broke up our proceedings for the present, as every one grasped at the least hope of success.

"It was now concluded to open both hatches and discharge her cargo as fast as possible, and see if she could not be got afloat as the leakage ceased so much that one pump could discharge the water as fast as she made it. After throwing overboard about ten tons more of cotton, with inexpressible joy we observed she moved a little. The Captain immediately had her sail set, and she rubbed and squeezed, and went off a distance of twenty yards, but, not being able to get her under steerage way, and thereby put her in the channel, the second mate had discovered she again ran with her bow against another reef of rocks, only eight feet under water. This was a second severe misfortune, as to float her over this the whole lading must have come out; and what, I ask will a ship do at sea without ballast? The anchor was ordered to be prepared to endeavor to draw her off to the leeward, while doing which she took a sheet and, stern foremost, swung off again and got afloat. With all possible expedition her sails were trimmed; the Captain went up on the foretop gallant yard in order thereby to be in a better situation of seeing the channel and depth of water; the mate was at the helm and every sailor at his post; and in this manner, after the greatest exertions and good management and running about a mile, with our hearts in our mouths, for fear of getting again on rocks, we all at once got off soundings, at 8 o'clock A. M.

"What heart can realize our joy, or what mind is susceptible of our feelings, torn from despair, and I may add from the most poignant grief and death itself, to pursuing our voyage as usual! I am incompetent to describe our danger and grief and also our delivery and joy.

"At 12 o'clock this day there arose a severe squall of wind and rain which continued about four hours. What would have

been the event if we were in the situation we were in four hours before, I mean on the rocks? all, all, inevitably would have been lost!

"26.—At 11 o'clock this night we were boarded by the British frigate 'Juno,' Capt. Dundas; after a slight examination (he) was dismissed, and treated politely through the whole.

"July 1.—This afternoon ran within half a league of the Island of Cuba not far from the Dolphin Head. It is a beautiful prospect indeed. Spoken by the 'Juno' again. Severe squall off Cuba. Lat. 22° 25' N. This day bore S. S. E. till 12, when we got in sight of the Cuba shore again and put about to the N. N. E. At sunset saw land to the eastward. Our Captain said it was the Double Head Shot Keys; consequently we are near entering the Gulf of Florida. Lay to this night for fear of getting on shoals in the dark.

"July 4, Independence Day. Huzza!—This day we found ourselves in the Gulf Stream, which is very acceptable news, for if we had got into a western current before we took this stream, in passing through between the Floridas and Cuba, we should in all probability have been swept back into Mexico before we could have beat up against the trade winds to this place. This makes 32 days we have been at sea, and therefore all very much dejected, on account of the length of the time for the distance to come; but now, as the current is favorable, whereas it was unfavorable before we have hopes of getting to New York in ten or twelve days.

"I am this day homesick, knowing that the day will be celebrated in Jersey as it ought to be, and I am sick to think I cannot partake of the enjoyment; however, being at sea, must celebrate it as a seaman does.

"In the morning guns were fired to usher in the day. At dinner we partook of an excellent repast, consisting of a turkey, two ducks and four chickens, with an excellent plum pudding, after which we drank some patriotic toasts with wine and porter, which made it resemble the hilarity of the day.

"6.—This morning saw a large sail to the southward, standing down upon us. It being calm we could not discover what it was till 12 o'clock, when we found she was a man-of-war. At 2 P. M. she came alongside. She proved to be an English 80-gun



ship, called the 'Cumberland.' After boarding us, and a slight examination, she dismissed us with all possible politeness. Lat. 29° 34'.

"8.—Stiff wind almost ahead; make but little on our voyage.

"10.—Severe squall. Wind very heavy. I find that, owing to my being so much unwell, the allowance of biscuit is not so great a hardship, though if I had more water I should find it very acceptable.

"11.—At 10 A. M. began a very severe gale; had to lay to till one P. M., at which time the wind shifted to the S. E., which was what we desired, as from adverse winds we have not progressed on our voyage but 17 degrees this week, and sea stores are almost gone.

"12.—Stiff wind exactly aft, so that we can run before it and keep our course. Can only carry fore sail. Very heavy sea. Off Charleston, S. C. Saw and spoke a small sloop, with her main mast sprung.

"13.—At 12 the wind increased and became a proper gale; were in consequence obliged to run under our poles, not being able to keep a foot of canvas up, but that it would be in an instant split to pieces like paper. Increased till 12 at night, when it moderated and the wind shifted to the north again. During this storm I have been perfectly well and hearty.

"14.—Quite pleasant weather; are now off of the Capes of Virginia from our latitude, and Capt. Hacquin informed us that he expected to be on soundings to-morrow, and that if no head winds prevail we shall see Sandy Hook lighthouse by Sunday next. From which information we, with no small degree of satisfaction, had our allowance of biscuit and water taken off.

"15.—Quite calm this morning. Saw a schooner to the northward. Our Captain bore down upon her and boarded her, in order to get some provisions. She was from Philadelphia, bound to the West Indies. Could get nothing from her but a little sugar and coffee.

"16.—Stiff breeze from the S. S. W. Fine prospect of getting into the Hook. Got, on sounding, 28 fathoms water. Lat. 39° 41'.

"17.—This morning saw two schooners and three brigs to the windward. Wind again shifted to the N. E. At 4 o'clock P. M. a sailor from the masthead cried out 'LAND!' which, upon a nearer approach, proved to be Little Egg Harbor on the Jersey

shore; a sight very welcome and agreeable to me, being my native shore and I have reason to believe all the crew relished the prospect.

"18.—Drove last night out of sight of land, and at 8 this morning were in a dead calm. We once more came under allowance of biscuit and water.

"19.—This morning we, with pleasure, saw the high lands of Neversink. Having a gentle breeze at 10 o'clock, came up nearly to the lighthouse at Sandy Hook, where we got a pilot on board the tide being favorable. We, at 2 o'clock P. M., anchored safely on the quarantine ground off Staten Island. The physician came on board shortly after, and pronounced us healthy; accordingly gave permission to go into New York, which we did at 4 o'clock P. M. With infinite pleasure I put my feet on shore. Took lodgings at 37 Dey St.

"20.—Saw at the Coffee House Capt. Brasier of the Ship 'Peggy' from Havana, who informed me the ship 'Ocean' had arrived at the Havana safe, and that they had sold their flour for \$18, purchased sugars at \$6.25 and were to come in the same ship to New York. Brother Sammy and all the crew were well.





### MISS GRACE KING'S "MADAME GIRARD"

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Miss Grace King has been so busy with the great creole families of Louisiana that it comes as a surprise to find in the Yale Review for January, 1922, her tender and sympathetic essay on "An Old French Teacher of New Orleans." This has since been issued between covers with the title "Madame Girard, A Memoir." We like the first title better, perhaps because it blends so perfectly with the sentiment that permeates the work, from that first indelibly etched sentence, to the exquisite minor chord which opens the concluding paragraphs of the sketch.

"In memory (so it begins) we can see her still, a delicate, slight figure, walking carefully along the side walk, dressed in a skirt that was too short for the fashion of that day, with a long loose indescribable sacque or coat of grey that fell below the knees; a square blue barrège veil, the four corners weighted with large beads, over her bonnet; a package of books in one hand, an umbrella in the other, 'Madam Girard', old Madam Girard, the teacher of French."

There is only one word we would change in this, "side walk"; the old teacher called it a "banquette", tho she lived long past the period when we yielded up that quaint designation in deference to the new people who built concrete sidewalks in old "Boulogny", and foreswore the brick and stone pavements of the Vieux Carré.

It required a woman's eye to piece out the appointments of this dear old figure, who for more than three generations kept her sway upon our imaginations and only she could write it who had participated in "the timid recitation of what had been learned by heart by means of much repetition aloud and beating of head in secluded corners".

We may not follow the story through its twenty-two pages, for that would be to deprive the reader of the rare pleasure in store for him, but we must tell this much, that it concerns the career of a daughter of the Antilles, who by chance was born in Liverpool, England. A delicate little flower of French ancestry, who remained French to the core from the time of her arrival in this world in 1814 to the time of her departure to a better one, ninety nine years thereafter. What happened to Marie Louise Hieronime, the child of Jeanne Motet and Drivon de Perry on that

long journey through life you must get from the little brochure on some dark Sunday evening when the rain is driving over the asphalt and swishing through the trees. There under your lamp in a secluded corner the story will creep into your heart and wet your lashes. You will shut your eyes on the last page and bless the dear pen which took you back through those hundred years of service and sacrifice and sympathy, and you too will be better for the adventure.

The paper is full of rememberable passages, soft, delicate, skilful touches that appeal for repetition here, but if we began this we would not know where to stop, yet there is that last sentence! Madam Girard is dying, she has refused the service of her ancient faith, and then,

"A young girl came to her, bent over her; she asked her to repeat the Lord's prayer to her, and she repeated with her: 'Notre pere qui es aux cieux; ton nom soit sanctifie', not the great prayer of Jean Reynaud but the Lord's prayer, and that was the end."

Miss King has written many perfect things, but in "Madame Girard" she has created a little masterpiece. It stands out in the pages of the Yale Review, even as some distinguished figure dominates a crowd, and its publication is an event in the literature of Louisiana.

H. P. D.





## NEW ORLEANS IN 1758

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*Being the Experiences of William Perry, an American Seaman,  
Held in "Jayl" There as a French Prisoner of War.*

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Through the kindness of Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, Director, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Historical Research, we are enabled to print the accompanying documents obtained by him in England in 1921. They are copied from the Chatham Papers Bundle 96, Public Record Office, London, (Vol. 96 Miscellaneous Papers 1748-50.) Dr. Jameson is following our work in the French and Spanish archives with keen interest and the writer takes this opportunity to acknowledge his constant and cheerful advice and assistance.

The two documents cover a report to London by William Davis, dated Philadelphia, September 18, 1758, and the examination on May 27, 1758, of William Perry before "William Allen, Esq., Chief Justice of the Province of Pennsylvania." In the first document we get a close view of the relations between the local representative of the English government and the people of "Pensilvania" in 1758, and in the paragraph before the last there is a contemporaneous report upon the movement of troops in the French and Indian War, for the capture of Fort Duquesne that resulted in the evacuation by the French of that fortification. In the previous war, its defenders had wrought much havoc on the English and provincial forces under General Braddock and Colonel George Washington; its capture in November, 1758, drove the French out of the English colonies and marked the beginning of the end of French dominion in Canada.

But our interest is in the second document, a racy account of the adventures of an American seaman, whose ship had been captured in the Atlantic Ocean by a French vessel of war and sent with a prize crew on board to New Orleans. It is a typical seaman's yarn and the veracious narrator doubtless told a good deal more than he actually saw. But one may not criticize him for he was in the presence of the "Chief Justice of Pensilvania," and was enjoying the opportunity of his life. The examination was intended to extract every bit of information that might be useful to the home government in the war then raging between France and England and the hardy mariner rose to the occasion. The fact is

that the outline of the story was true and the English government knew it without reference to William Perry's tale, and had England turned her strength toward the Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans would have been an easy prey, but that country was even then busy fitting out the expedition under Wolfe that one year later captured Quebec and ended the career of France in America.

Yet when all allowances have been made, this statement of Perry's is redolent of ancient New Orleans, and it is a genuine contribution to our local history. It is a little picture of life in that place during a period, that we have little in our records of equal interest. We can see the hardship of the colony, shut out by the war from supplies and we share in the constant alarms of the people surrounded by red enemies, a subject only too well told in all our histories. One thing more is here emphasized, the surreptitious trade during time of war between the belligerents that apparently was a necessity to the English West Indies, as well as the French capital of Louisiana.

HENRY P. DART.

*Report of William Davis.*

Philadelphia, 16th September, 1758.

Sir,

I have the Honour of yours of the 5th of August requesting a Supply of 300 Seamen for the Maning the Eccho Man of War, which you was pleased to offer for the Defence of this Coast. I immediately applied to the Assembly, who are now sitting, and on their declining to enable me to furnish the above Supply, I sent a written Message to the House, which is inclosed, with their Answer.

There will be a Regiment Quartered here in the Winter, as we have Barracks lately built for fourteen hundred Men. If you think proper to order one of your ships on this Station, I will give all the Assistance in my power for a general Press.

I have endeavoured to prevent as much as possible the Exportation of Provisions to Suspected Ports, from whence the King's Enemies may be furnished; notwithstanding, there is certainly a clandestine Trade carried on, which might be suppressed by a Ship of War. The Provincial Armed Frigate is a bad Sailor, and there are one hundred and sixty men, Officers included, on board her, which might be turned over to the King's ship.



Inclosed is the Examination of an English Sailor that came in a Flag of Truce from New Orleans, with three others, who were examined separately, and confirmed what he said.

General Forbes in his letter of the 4th Instant writes me, that he has opened a very good new Road fourteen miles to the right of General Braddock's, and that his advanced Post, consisting of Fifteen hundred Men, and a Detachment of Artillery, was within forty Miles of Fort Duquesne.

I have the pleasure to inform you by the inclosed Gazette of the success of Colonel Bradstreet's Expedition against Frontenac.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS.

*Examination of William Perry.*

Sworn before me

Will. Allen.

(Endorsed.)

Copy

Examination of William Perry, a Mariner on board Capt. Viviat in the *Pauline* a French Flag of Truce from New Orleans taken 27th May, 1758:

The Examination of William Perry, a Mariner on board the Flag of Truce, Captain Viviat, who arrived yesterday from New Orleans, taken this 27th day of May 1758, before William Allen, Esqr. Chief Justice of the Province of Pensilvania.

This Examinant saith, that he sailed from Rhode Island the Twentieth Day of May was Twelvemonth in the Ship *Sea Flower*, Captain Thomas Robinson, bound to the Bay of Honduras, and in her voyage there, on the Thirtieth Day of June last, in sight of the Havannah, the *Sea Flower* was taken by a French Privateer of Eight Guns, Captain Desmaire. That Five French Men were put on board, and in Distress of Weather, being bound to the Mississippi, put into a Spanish Fort, called Pensacola, about Thirty Leagues North East of the Mississippi, and from thence sailed to the Mississippi, but out of sight of land. That at the Entrance of the Mississippi, there is a great Bar near One Hundred Feet in Breadth, on which is no more than Twelve Feet Water—No Rocks, a hard, blue, Clay. That there is a Fort of Six or Eight Guns, where the Pilots reside, at the Entrance into the

River, at an Island called La Balise. That when they came to the Bar in the Prize Sloop there they found the Ship *Lancaster*, and the *Privateer* Sloop that took them, lying in the River. That the *Privateer* left them, and the Ship was lightened of Logwood, in order to enable her to go over the Bar. That the Ship and Sloop *Sea Flower* passed the Bar together, and went up to New Orleans, and he was told by the King's Pilot, it was Thirty Four Leagues from the Bar to New Orleans. That in going up the River he saw Two Forts nearly opposite to one another, about half way up, not of much Force, and that they were building a new Battery, or Fort, about six or seven Miles above these. That there is no Stone in the Country, but very good clay.

That at New Orleans there are about Two Hundred Soldiers, but it is unfortified. That there are a few Cannon to fire on a rejoicing Day. That New Orleans is about as big as Bristol, in Rhode Island Government. That he saw Numbers of Indians in Town, fifty or sixty in a Gang, and he was told that the French, who go out of Town any where into the Country, are frequently scalped. That a Barrel of Flower was sold for Thirty Five Pieces of Eight. That there was there a small Prize Brig Captain Spring of Philadelphia laden with Flower, and that her Flower sold for Thirty Five Pieces of Eight a Barrel. That there arrived from Bordeaux a Brig of Six Guns laden chiefly with Wine, and a Snow, a Letter of Marque of Tenn Guns, bound for Cape Francois. That a French Ship of Sixty Hands and Ten Guns of the *Warwicks* taken by the English, and retaken by a small *Privateer*, came into New Orleans. That three Vessels sailed from New Orleans a few Days before them, a Brig of Fourteen, and Two Wooden, Guns, a Brig of Twelve Guns, and a Schooner of Eight Guns concerted with the Brig of Twelve Guns, and, as they were told, intended for Augustine, and then for this Coast. That they were afraid of being attacked by an Army from South Carolina, and collected their Militia, which he does not believe exceed Four Hundred. That there was a great Scarcity of Provisions, and Flower, and every other Sort but Rice, of which there is plenty. That a Vessel, with Soldiers from Old France to New Orleans, was taken, and that Sixteen Store Ships, laden with Provisions and Ammunition, were all taken by the English, except one, which arrived there, and this Examinant helped to fit her out.

That in the Jayl, where he was, he saw one Thomas Morris, who told him he was an Indian Trader, who had traded with an



Officer belonging to a large Fort that the French had, Four or Five Hundred Leagues up the Mississippi, near the Mouth of the Carolina River, and went there to demand the Money due him; but instead of being paid, he was arrested, put into Confinement and sent to New Orleans.

That he saw William Tipper, a Londoner, a Seaman, who was pressed at Charles Town into the Provincial Forces; that he had deserted, and was found by a Party of Indians in the Woods, near the above Fort, almost starved, and carried by them to New Orleans, and there remained in Jayl, having been a prisoner about a Year.

This Examinant says, that, in the Month of January a Message was sent to the Governor of New Orleans from their friendly Indians, that if they did not send them a Supply of Cloathing and Ammunition, they would come and destroy them, on which they mustered their Forces, expecting the Indians to come.

That the Goods they get is from Jamaica, in Flags of Truce. That there were Two Flags of Truce, a Brig and a Sloop, from Jamaica, while he was there, laden with Bales of Goods and Flower, and above a hundred Negroes to trade with, with a few Prisoners, and that they took back only Twelve Prisoners, and a Lading of Indigo, Beaver, Deer Skins, Parchment and Logwood. That New Orleans is so bad a place and so little employ to be had there, that the French would rather remain in Jayl at Jamaica, than come to New Orleans. That their Days Allowance is a Bitt, for which they can get no more than Three Eggs.

William Perry.

Sworn before me  
Will. Allen.



## SUIT FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES TO A SLAVE

*French Archives, Louisiana*

DAGOBERT, SUPERIOR OF THE CAPUCHINS

vs.

SIEUR LOQUET

BEFORE THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA—1764

We print herewith a translation of the record of a suit in damages for assault and battery committed on a slave, instituted June 11, 1764, by Father Dagobert, Superior of the Capuchins in New Orleans, against Sieur Loquet to recover the value of the lost services of a slave owned by the Capuchins who was incapacitated by injuries inflicted on him by Sieur Loquet and also to recover the costs of surgical attention needed to restore the slave to health.

The file is not complete, showing only the following papers:

1. The petition of the plaintiff;
2. Report or certificate of the surgeons;
3. The surgeons' bill for professional services;
4. Order of the Judge;
5. The Sheriff's return;
6. Return of the sheriff on his official demand for payment of the judgment.

There are missing, the answer of the defendant, if any; the minutes of the hearing; the judgment; and the further action, if any, following the demand for payment of the judgment.

The documents illustrated the method of procedure in actions for tort in 1764, and show also that the owner of a slave could at that era recover damages for his injury.

The petition is signed "f. dagobert Cap Supr", and sets forth that Sieur Loquet attacked a negro belonging to the Capuchins, assaulting him in the middle of the street, and wounded and mutilated him, placing him in condition where he could not work for 47 days. That the defendant did this because he had prohibited the negro from passing with his wagon on that street and had threatened to maltreat him if he did so again. The surgeons' certificate is annexed to the petition and the petitioner prays that



Sieur Loquet be ordered to pay the value of forty seven days work lost to the master through his injuries, and also the cost of keeping him and the bill of the surgeons for their treatment.

The petition is addressed to Mr. Dabbadie, Director General, Commandant for the King. This was two years after the Cession to Spain and before the latter attempted to take possession through Ulloa's misadventure. On the petition, Dabbadie indorsed an ex parte order, issued in his capacity recited in the petition, and also as First Judge of the Superior Council, and eventually condemned Loquet to pay the sum claimed by Dagobert.

H. P. D.

### INDEX

**DOCUMENT No. 1.**

Father Dagobert's Petition; Annexed Report of Surgeons and Bill for their Services. Order of the Director General; Return of Service.

**DOCUMENT No. 2.**

Return on Notice of Judgment.

Translation by Mrs. H. H. Cruzat, except the Surgeons Report which is by Dr. E. M. Dupaquier, of New Orleans.

**DOCUMENT No. 1**

1764—June 11th

Original Petition

To Monsieur Dabbadie, Director General, Commandant for the King in Louisiana:

Father Dagobert, Superior of the Capuchins, has the honor to represent that on the sixteenth of April of the present year, Sr. Loquet attacked in the middle of the street a negro wagoner to them belonging, mutilated him with blows from a stick, wounded him and put him in such condition as to prevent him from working during forty seven days, as appears from the proces verbal drawn by Messrs. Gardrat and Roussillon, surgeons, on account of a prohibition to pass in the street with his wagon, made to him two days previously by Sr. Loquet who threatened to maltreat him if he did so again.

This considered, may it please you to order that Sr. Louquet pay the value of forty seven days of work and nourishment and the surgeons' treatment and render justice.

(Signed) F. dagobert Cap Supr

(Translation by Dr. E. M. Dupaquier of New Orleans)

1764—April 23rd

**Surgeons' Report**

Reported by us, Surgeon for the King, and by us, Surgeon Ordinary, that on the order of Monsieur Dabbadie, Director General of this Colony, we went to the house of the reverend Capuchin Fathers to see and examine a negro, owned by them, who had been struck with blunt instruments about eight days ago, and whom we found with a fracture of the inferior part of the cubitus of the left arm, without displacement of the bones, which we could not perceive in the beginning on account of the swelling of the part. The patient's advanced age can not but cause a long case owing to the weakness of the food bearing network of capillary blood vessels. In faith of which we have delivered this present report to serve as may be required, at New Orleans, April 23, 1764.

(Signed) Gardrat, Roussillon

1764—June 7th

**Surgeon's Bill for Services**

Reported by me, Chief Surgeon for the King, having been called on the sixteenth of the month of April of the present year to examine and dress the arm of a negro owned by the reverend Capuchin Fathers, who had an incomplete fracture of the forearm in the inferior part of the cubitus.

One hundred livres in bill of exchange for dressing and for treatment of said fracture until June 2d, which makes forty seven days that the said negro kept on his dressing.

To Sr. Roussillon for visit and report, 10lvs.

In faith of which I have signed the present report at New Orleans, June 7, 1764.

(Signed) Gardrat.

1764—June 11th

**Order**

Before us, Director General, Commandant for the King in Louisiana and First Judge in the Superior Council of this province, the statement in above petition and the accompanying reports of Sieurs Gardrat, chief surgeon, and Roussillon, private surgeon in this city: We order Sr. Loquet to pay to the Rev. Pere



Dagobert, without delay, the sum of two hundred and four livres in bills of exchange, viz., ninety four livres for the forty seven days during which he was unable to work and one hundred and ten livres for the dressing and treatment of said negro during the said time, in accordance with the demand of said surgeons.

Given at our official residence at New Orleans, June 11, 1764.

(Signed) Dabbadie

For service by the sheriff of the Superior Council of this province.

1764—June 11th

Return of Service

In the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty four on the eleventh day of June, in the afternoon, by virtue of the order of Monsieur Dabbadie, Director General, commanding for the King the province of Louisiana and First Judge of its Superior Council, on petition of Rev. Pere Dagobert, Capuchin priest, Superior of the Convent of its order in this province, at his domicile in New Orleans,

I, the undersigned Joseph Maison, sheriff and crier of the said Council above mentioned, residing in this city where he has established his domicile, have notified and duly furnished copy of contents of the petition and order and of other parts transcribed, to Sr. Loquet, residing in this city, where he has his domicile, speaking to Charlotte his negress servant, with command to pay and give to the Reverend Father, petitioner, the sum of two hundred and four livres in bills of exchange as it is ordered in the said order for the reasons therein stated, without prejudice to any action, costs, and expense, and this immediately without other delay, declaring to him that, in default of so doing he will be constrained thereto by all just and reasonable means; and that he may not pretend ignorance, have left him copy of this service. Wherefore this act.

(Signed) J. Maison Sheriff and Usher.

DOCUMENT No. 2

1764—September 17th

Notice of Judgment and Return Thereon

In the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty four, on the seventeenth day of September, in the forenoon, by virtue of the order following the petition of Reverend Pere Dagobert, Ca-

puchin priest, Curé of the parish of St. Louis of New Orleans, I, the undersigned Joseph Maison, sheriff and usher of the Superior Council of the province of Louisiana, residing in this city, his domicile, have notified and duly furnished copy of the reports of the surgeons, in two parts, petition, judgment rendered in favor of petitioner, as well as of the demand made by me, said sheriff, on the eleventh of last June, with reiterated command to Sieur Loquet, residing in this city of New Orleans, where he has established his domicile, to pay and give immediately, without delay, to the petitioner two hundred and four livres in bills of exchange, to which he has been condemned in the said sentence of Monsieur Dabbadie, under the petition and for the causes therein stated, without prejudice to any action, costs and expenses, declaring to him that in default of his complying therewith he will be prosecuted with all the force and rigor of the Ordinance; this the said Sr. Loquet has refused. In view of said refusal, I have served him notice to appear before said Sieur Dabbadie at his official residence today at three in the afternoon, to witness the statement and order of what in justice is proper.

And that he may not ignore this I have left him copies of the said reports attached hereto, petition, sentence, demand; as well as of the present reiterated demand as set out hereinabove at his domicile where I have expressly gone, speaking to himself personally. Wherefore this act.

(Signed) J. Maison.

In the margin: "Sentences arbitraires". Absolute decrees.





## HENRY VIGNAUD: A PERSONAL SKETCH

By EDWARD ALEXANDER PARSONS.\*

*"Historians ought to be precise, faithful and unprejudiced; and neither interest nor fear, hatred nor affection, should make them swerve from the way of truth."*

—Cervantes.

Louisiana, with the most picturesque history of the American States, has been singularly endowed with the gifts of historical scholarship.

From her triform origin have arisen a line of historians of French, Spanish and English blood, possessed of patient research, ingenious analysis, brilliant imagination and noble style.

It is my privilege to essay a sketch of that distinguished Louisianian who in diplomacy and letters and in the field of scientific historical investigation has shed lustre upon his native state and made for himself a permanent place in literature.

But fifteen years after the Battle of New Orleans and within ten years of Napoleon's death, Henry Vignaud was born in the city of New Orleans. He was the son of Lucien Vignaud and Clemence Godfroi. He had a brother, the late Mr. James A. Vignaud, and three sisters, Miss Euphemie Vignaud, the late Mrs. John Glynn and Mrs. Vve. Alf. Meilleur.

He received his education in New Orleans and early taught in the public schools.

From the beginning he evinced a love for literature, a deep curiosity in and a desire to analyze the events of the past and he was ever a student of books.

He early wrote for the Louisiana journals, such as LeCourrier, and other papers of New Orleans, and then became editor of L'Union de Lafourche and finally of a weekly, with the high title of La Renaissance Louisianaise. I have seen from the files of one of these old papers, one of his earlier literary efforts, written in French and entitled De L'Origine de L'Homme—

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\*Paper read before Louisiana Historical Society, Nov. 24, 1921. Since the paper was written, Mr. Vignaud died at his home, Bagneux, Seine, France, on September 18, 1922.

Fragment D'Etudes, Anthropologiques. In Paris he renewed his journalistic activities and from 1864-1884 was the editor and proprietor of the *Memorial Diplomatique*, a paper of continental importance and influence in European diplomatic circles.

In the Civil War he received the commission of Captain in the Confederate Army and was captured by Union troops at New Orleans. Upon his release, began his diplomatic career. Judah P. Benjamin, the great Secretary of State of the Confederacy, divining his aptitude for the work, appointed him Secretary of the Confederate Diplomatic Commission to Paris, where he went with Slidell in 1863.

After the War the Roumanian government recognizing his talents made him the Chancellor of the Roumanian Diplomatic Agency at Paris.

But he was too ardent a lover of his country to stay long out of her service. The United States Government sent him to Geneva with the Alabama Claims Commission; and in 1873 at the International Metric Conference he represented the American Government. In 1883 with our Minister, Mr. Morton, he was a delegate to the international convention for the protection of submarine cables, resulting in the Treaty of March, 1884.

It was in 1875 that President Grant, forgiving the man who had opposed him and his cause with sword and pen, appointed Mr. Vignaud a Secretary of the American Legation at Paris. Under President Arthur he was promoted to First Secretary, May 15, 1885.

President Arthur offered Mr. Vignaud a judgeship on the Tribunal Mixte, the International Courts in Egypt, a position now held by our distinguished fellow-citizen, the linguist and scholar, Judge Pierre Crabitès.

And now, he who had represented three governments at Paris, was, for over a generation, as Secretary, First Secretary and innumerable times Chargé d'Affaires, the best known figure and most important person at the American Ministry and Embassy. He served under nine administrations, Republican and Democratic alike. In Grant's administration, under Minister Washburn; Hayes' administration, under General Noyes; in Garfield's and Arthur's administration, under Mr. Morton; in Cleveland's first administration under Mr. McLane; in Harrison's administration, under Whitelaw Reid; in Cleveland's second admin-



istration under Mr. Eustis of Louisiana; and on through administrations of McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft under Ministers White-law Reid and Henry White.

In the spring of 1909 with "honors thick upon him" he retired from active service. And then was held that memorable farewell banquet at the Hotel du Palais d'Orsay (May 8, 1909) given by the American Chamber of Commerce and friends, when a hundred and fifty of the foremost men in Paris met to wish the retiring diplomat godspeed, and there it was that the Ambassador of the United States read that remarkable letter from Mr. Bacon, United States Secretary of State, that so fittingly crowned the long and honored diplomatic career and faithful service of Henry Vignaud: "Your fidelity," said the Secretary of State, "and your zeal long ago merited the honorable promotion to a mission which would have been gladly awarded you, but for the knowledge that your circumstances could not admit of your accepting a so well-deserved honor."

So retired this distinguished public servant, who was presented with a fund of \$20,000.00 by Messrs. Morton, Carnegie, Morgan and others to insure the veteran diplomat against want.

For most men, this would have been the end, but this remarkable man, though nearly eighty years of age, had just attained the goal of the scholar's life—a leisure free from want, where amid the accumulated treasures of the ages, in communion with the mighty spirits of the past, he could seek and find rare nuggets of knowledge, which under his dextrous hand were logically arranged, given a master's polish and presented to the world of letters, causing a veritable revolution in thought, and shattering the cherished views of four centuries.

Before and since his retirement he has published many works of premier importance in the field of historical criticism—articles, pamphlets and books which have compelled the attention of the learned and resisted every attempt of his opponents—practically the entire historico-geographic-critical world—to assail his profound learning, his patient research, his philosophic temperament, his keen analysis, his irresistible logic and the resultant immutable judgments.

Among such were his famous *La Lettre et la Carte de Toscanelli*; his monumental *Etudes Critiques sur la vie de Colomb*; *The Columbian Tradition*, a pamphlet eagerly published a few

months ago by the Oxford Clarendon Press, and a few days ago was published at Paris his latest work, *Le Vrai Christophe Colomb et La Légende*, an admirable résumé of the principal results of modern criticism on Columbus and his works, an autographed copy of which I have received.

Although Mr. Vignaud has done much work of the highest order in Columbian research, having been the first to ascertain the correct date of the discoverer's birth (1451), so remarkably confirmed by the finding later of documents in Italy; having marshaled the facts with irrefragable logic, to demonstrate that the great Genoese was not of noble lineage; did not have as relatives two noble admirals; did not leave his native city at the age of fourteen but at twenty-four; never studied at the University of Pavia; never was a soldier in campaigns for King René; never made proposals to Genoa, Venice, France and England; was not a hardy mariner, but had very limited experience at sea—though he holds an imposing, if not a compelling, brief on all of these important incidents in the career of Columbus—still it was not upon these researches that his permanent place in historical investigation shall rest but upon his masterpieces of historical criticism—his brilliant critical study to demonstrate that the goal of the 1492 expedition was, not the East Indies, but new lands or islands and his almost irrefutable exposé of the Letter and Map of Toscanelli.

#### THE TOSCANELLI LETTER.

Everyone knows the famous thesis.

How Alfonso V. of Portugal, eager to learn of a direct oceanic route to India, other than the one his sailors were seeking along the African coast, applied, through a member of his household, a Canon named Fernan Martins (Fernando Martinez), to the great Florentine mathematician, astronomer and cosmographer, Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli. In reply Toscanelli writes the famous letter "about a shorter route to the places of Spices by ocean navigation" and explains in detail how the East could be reached by sailing West and accompanies the letter with a map or "Chart made by my (his) own hands, upon which are laid down your coasts, and the islands from which you must begin to shape your course steadily westward, and the places at which you are bound to arrive," etc. And then follows, unfortunately for the fate of



the letter, descriptions of places, rivers, palaces, gold, jewels and spices and all the glamour of the mediæval mind. The whole given at Florence 25th of June, 1474.

Columbus hears of this important communication, writes to Toscanelli, who graciously sends him a copy of the letter written to his friend, the Portuguese canon, and possibly adds some further information.

Another letter is written to Columbus by Toscanelli in answer to letters from the Genoaese.

Now it is upon this letter (which Columbus sacredly carried with him on his memorable voyage) as a scientific basis, that the future discoverer planned his noble and grand project of reaching the East by sailing to the West.

And so was given to Toscanelli the great glory of having initiated the discovery of the New World.

Such is the story consecrated by Las Casas and the "Historie" attributed to Ferdinand Columbus, the Admiral's son, and by a long line of writers from the good old Bishop Las Casas, Humboldt, Harriette, Washington Irving, Roselly de Lorgues to Sophus Ruge, Herman Wagner, Galois, Uzielli, Carlo Errera, Markham, Beazley, Winsor, Fiske and Payne.

Now this letter of Toscanelli, the very stone of the corner of all our histories, Mr. Vignaud demonstrates is a forgery.

The motive for the fraud he believes to be as follows: During the lifetime of Columbus there was gossip in Hispaniola and whispers in the streets of Palos that Columbus had not boldly set out on wholly unknown seas, but that he knew of the existence of islands in the Western Sea from a pilot who, having been driven out at sea, arrived at what is now one of the West Indies and later dying on the Island of Madeira, bequeathed to Columbus his maps and charts showing the western route. Now it is contended that Bartholomew, the faithful brother of Columbus, and possibly Columbus himself, fearing the damaging effect of the spread of this scandal to the reputation of the discoverer, resolved to be well armed in order to refute the story by showing that the real initiator of the plan to find the East by sailing West was the great scientific thinker, Toscanelli. Of course, the scheme was as old as the Greeks, but for Columbus, Toscanelli was to be the great incentive. So Toscanelli, having died in 1482, the correspondence was forged, probably by Bartholomew.

The fears of Columbus and his family were actually realized, for, in 1535, the story of the dead pilot and his maps and voyage was told by Oviedo, repeated by Gomara and finally the Inca Garcilaso gives the very name of the pilot, one Alonzo Sanchez of Huelva. Even Las Casas had mentioned the story.

As the story was now given printed publicity, to counteract its influence, out from the Columbian archives comes the Toscanelli letter.

Such was the motive for the fabrication of this famous document.

And now, for a few moments, let us follow the masterly method employed by Mr. Vignaud in proof of his thesis.

1° There must have been an original and two copies of the letter, three in all; one sent by Toscanelli to the Canon Martins in Lisbon, one possessed by Toscanelli at Florence, and one sent to Columbus at his request. Neither the original nor the copies or any part thereof are to be found in Portugal, Italy or Spain.

2° If Toscanelli had written so important a document it should have been found among his papers or at least known to Nicholas of Cusa, Marsileo Ficino, Politian, Pico della Mirandola or to some of that brilliant circle of his humanist friends, who flourished at Florence during the golden days of the Italian Renaissance. But nothing is found and no mention is made by his contemporaries.

3° In the list of Portuguese canons and court officials there is no such name as Fernan Martins to be found. He was a figment of the mind, taken out of the air or borrowed from the name of one of Columbus' mariners.

4° In Portugal there is not a scintilla of evidence that a letter was ever written for the King by Toscanelli.

5° A study of the text discloses possibly the most damaging of all the evidence against its authenticity.

(a) The express purport of the letter suggests to the Portuguese a short route to the Land of Spices. But the letter was written in June, 1474, and the Portuguese had no earthly interest in this trade before 1481. Alfonso never interested himself in transatlantic discoveries, and Toscanelli, who had never been out of Italy, was, as far as all records show, unknown in Portugal.

(b) The cosmographical data of the letter is based on Ptolemy's account of the System of Marinus of Tyre. This system Ptolemy corrected.



The only way to know Marinus of Tyre was through Ptolemy; Ptolemy was not printed in 1474, but, although Toscanelli could have known Marinus of Tyre through manuscript copies of Ptolemy, he must also have known how Ptolemy exposes his errors.

It is inconceivable that so eminent a scientist, mathematician, astronomer and cosmographer as Toscanelli could have made so egregious a blunder.

(c) But the letter does contain Columbus' views on cosmography.

(d) A great part of the letter deals with imaginary descriptions, rich in color and exaggeration, taken boldly from the glorious Book of Ser Marco Polo, the Venetian, well known to Columbus and hardly worthy of a profound scientific scholar such as was Toscanelli.

(e) And finally a remarkable discovery was made by Harris in 1871 when he found in the Columbina at Seville, on the fly-leaf of Columbus' own copy of the *Historia Rerum ubique gestarum* of Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini (afterward Pope Pius II), a Latin text of this letter.

It is in the handwriting of Bartholomew Columbus or Christopher Columbus, for they wrote very similar hands. Now the point is this: The original letter was, of course, written by Toscanelli in Latin. This letter was written in Latin, but with cases, tenses, moods and constructions so awry that no stretch of the imagination could assume that a scholar such as Toscanelli could have written such a thing, but such a letter could have been written by our mariner brothers, who were not scholars, and such a letter was actually written by one of them.

And so the negative lack of proofs, all the reasonable probabilities and surrounding circumstances, the external linguistic character of the letter, its internal defects of time, knowledge and taste, builds up a case against its acceptance as an historical document that appears absolutely unsurmountable.

#### OBJECT OF THE EXPEDITION OF 1492.

But the most important of all these matters, in the view of their distinguished proponent, is the true object and purpose of the Expedition of 1492.

That Columbus did not seek to reach the East by the shorter route to the West, but set out to find new lands or islands, is the major proposition which Mr. Vignaud sets forth with all his minute research, great learning and irrefragable logic.

I can only summarize from his own recapitulation of the salient points in controversy, those proofs which he marshals to maintain his thesis.

1° The contract between Ferdinand and Isabella and Columbus contains no mention of the East Indies, but treats solely of *new islands* to be discovered.

2° Luis de Santagel, called by Irving the "Receiver of the Ecclesiastical Revenues of Aragon," who was Secretary of the Allowances of the King, and who advanced 17,000 ducats for the epoch-making voyage, in recommending the adoption of Columbus' scheme and reciting its advantages, never says a word about a shorter route to the Land of Spices.

3° The evidence of Maldonado, a member of the commission to which the Columbus proposals were referred, who "declared that they dealt only with the islands which were discovered."

4° The silence of all those who witnessed or took part in the preparations for the expedition (except Pinzon, who seems to have set his heart on discovering Cipango) as to any intention of going to the Indies. On the other hand, the common knowledge of those who took part that the object of the expedition was to discover new islands.

5° The silence of Columbus, who never mentions the Indies until after his discovery.

6° Their Catholic Majesties, when conferring honors and rewards on Columbus, in the enumeration of his services, mention only the islands which he had discovered.

7° All contemporary writers and authors of the time (except Las Casas and Herrera, who merely copies Las Casas) say that the object of the expedition was to discover the islands which he found; and they are all unaware that its purpose was to search for a shorter route to the Indies.

8° The geographical ideas of Columbus as to the small extent of sea-space dividing the extremities of the known world was formed after his discovery, in 1493 or 1494.

And I might add that on the tombstone of Fernando Colon in the nave of the great cathedral at Seville appears the famous



inscription, which Fernando, the discoverer's son, says was cut on the tomb of his father by order of the Catholic King:

"A Castilla y á León Mundo nuevo dié Colón."

Modern scholarship now makes another explanation of the famous inscription.

In his recent brochure, *The Columbian Tradition*, p. 47 (Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1920), Mr. Vignaud concludes:

"Therefore, I repeat here what I said in closing my *Histoire de la Grande Entreprise de 1492*: Columbus discovered America because he had divined its existence and because he set out to look for it until he had found it. Toscanelli had nothing to do with that great event."

Again I repeat that these are enduring pieces of historical criticism that must be met or acknowledged by every future serious historian of the New World called America and its origin, and that its author's name and fame must form part of that memorable record in the Story of Mankind.

Mr. Vignaud has repeatedly been honored by societies and learned bodies. He was the President of the American Society; Honorary Secretary of the Anthropological Society of London.

The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by Tulane University of Louisiana on his retirement in 1909.

He is an officer of the Legion of Honor.

His monumental work "*Critical Studies of the Life of Columbus*" was crowned by the French Academy, the highest literary honor in the world, and it was the first time such an honor had been conferred upon an American.

It may be of interest to add that through the efforts of Mr. Vignaud many important books and documents relating to colonial days in Louisiana were copied from the archives of the Minister of the Colonies in Paris and are now in the custody of the Louisiana Historical Society.

From the Champs-Élysées, the world's most beautiful thoroughfare and the scene of endless motion, to the quiet village of Bagneux, Seine, with its great bare walls, its old fashioned gardens and its sleepy streets, is but thirty minutes journey in a reckless Paris taxi.

But time is now the smallest element in transition, and in no way conveys its true significance, for here was a change from city to country, from commerce to study, from action to thought.

In this quaint village, after the Prussian retreat in 1870, Mr. Vignaud purchased his pleasant home; here he has lived for many years; here he retired in 1909.

It was at Bagneux he received me on an October morning, (1921) perfect in all its autumnal beauty.

When I was with him, I thought of Leonardo with his majestic beard; of Michelangelo, and the great scholars, old in years and rich in wisdom.

He received me with all the graciousness of his kindly nature, and at once, as if by intuition, he led me to his study.

There in a few precious moments, I received first hand his famous views on Columbus and his works, which have revolutionized all preconceived notions of the discovery and discoverer of the New World.

He showed part of the voluminous data he had collected and which is almost ready for publication consisting of a complete record of geographical maps from the earliest records to the end of the 17th Century, all studies from the originals, with critical expositions and appraisements made by probably the world's greatest living historico-geographical scholar. It is a work of vast labor and erudition in four portfolios and its gifted author sadly expressed the fear that it would be difficult to find a publisher, as the work would be in itself expensive to reproduce and of course its appeal and sale would be limited.

It was a great privilege to be with Mr. Vignaud in his workshop, where contemplating its quiet and perfect fitness, I thought of the engraving by Dürer of Saint Jerome in his study.

Beyond this room stretched his library with its princely collection.

Here was the result of half a century of quiet, patient, indefatigable and expert search for the things of value in the world of Americana. A veritable treasure trove, acquired for a purpose, with a scholar's judgment and arranged with a bibliographer's skill.

Chefs-d'œuvre of his chosen field in original editions, in Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, English, German, and other European tongues; gems of scholarship and research; rare nuggets of special inquiry; all the original sources, biographers, chroniclers, historians, geographers, with their commentators and critics; all this rich, rare and varied data comprised within



every known format, from priceless atlas-folios to rare pamphlets bound in tall, thin copies and unique brochures; all classified with precision; and the whole comprehending the precious fruits of a scholar's labors, a monumental treasure house of learning.

In the mind lingers the names of famous atlases, Du Val (1478) by the geographer of Henri III, Gerhard Mercator, Blaeu, Abraham Ortelius, Jonsohnus, and the beautiful folio Ptolemy of 1513, a spotless copy; or the names of important writers from Las Casas, Ferdinand Columbus, Peter Martyr, Oviedo, Gomara, on to and through the modern masters. There are shelves of works on phases of Columbus' career, corners devoted to Cortez, Pizarro, and the other conquistadores, or to Ponce de Leon, Balboa and the other discoverers.

So nearly perfect is this collection that in it will be found treasures of universal appeal, such as the Nuremberg Chronicle, which for our scholar has the special interest in that it has an important paragraph on Martin Behaim, a native of Nuremberg, celebrated navigator and cosmographer, friend of Columbus, who made the famous Nuremberg Globe in 1492, a copy of which globe Mr. Vignaud had made for the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and now to be found in the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

And-so might be mentioned items of special interest concerning hundreds of rare volumes to be found in this library.

There is one book, however, which cannot be slighted even in so cursory an account as the present. It forms the corner-stone of Americana, and there are less than a baker's dozen original copies extant to-day. Mr. Vignaud is the fortunate possessor of one of these copies. It is a thin 12 mo. volume, specially bound, in a slip-case, in its proper place among its fellows, but as a precaution the front of the book is turned outward, instead of the back of the book exhibiting the title.

The writer, in conscience, was impelled to remark to Mr. Vignaud that the precaution was just and might deter the spirit of Eugene Aram from entering the firm bosom of some visiting bibliophile.

But the book? It is the *Cosmographiæ Introductio* of Martin Waldseemüller, printed at St. Dié, in Lorraine, 1507.

In this little village of the Vosges, an earnest group of humanists had established a workshop of scholarship. Their leader was

the Canon Walter Ludd, Secretary to Duke René II of Lorraine. The Canon had established a printing office at St. Dié. And there were Philesius Ringmann, the philologist, Joh. Basinus Sendacurius, the classical scholar, and the young Martin Waldseemüller, the geographer. Ringmann and Waldseemüller were literary printers. This coterie composed the famous Gymnasium Vosagense. Together they planned much work of great scientific importance, such as the 1513 Ptolemy. But one of their least significant efforts (that is the work of one of the company, Martin Waldseemüller) was destined to exert the most lasting influence on the history of mankind; to hold a place unique in the world of books.

The *Cosmographiæ Introductio* was written, printed and published by Martin Waldseemüller.

This work is a geographical introduction, probably a forerunner of the more elaborate work to appear in the new edition of Ptolemy (1513).

To it was added the *Quatuor Navigationes*, or an account of the Four Voyages of Amerigo Vespucci. Two maps were to complete the initial enterprise, one a globe, and the other a plane projection. One was the far-famed *Mappemonde* of Waldseemüller (1507), a copy of the original print of which was discovered in 1900 by Prof. Jos. Fischer, S. J., in the library of Castle Wolfegg in Wurtemberg. This was the first map to bear the legend "America."

Prior to this "find," it was thought that that distinction belonged to a rough *Mappemonde* (cir. 1514), probably by that almost omniscient scholar Leonardo da Vinci.

But Waldseemüller's map was but the complement of that famous passage that shall make his book and name imperishable:

"Now, these parts of the earth [*i. e.*, Europe, Africa, Asia] have been more extensively explored and a *fourth part* has been discovered by Amerigo Vespucci (as will be set forth in what follows). Inasmuch as both Europe and Asia received their names from women, I see no reason why anyone should justly object to calling this part Amerige, *i. e.*, the land of Amerigo, or America, after Amerigo, its discoverer, a man of sagacious mind. Its position and the customs of its inhabitants may be clearly understood from the four voyages of Amerigo, which are subjoined."



Such was the origin of the name "America," which gave to the illustrious Florentine an unique immortality. It was just a passing thought, a toss in the air, a whirr of a scholar's enthusiasm, for which the author himself never again contended, yet Mercator, the cartographer, added the dual prefixes "North" and "South" America, and such is the power of suggestion that, in spite of its inaccuracy, it has prevailed, and has now become a shibboleth for all mankind.

This little book, the *Cosmographiæ Introductio*, is one of the treasures in Americana, to be found on the ample shelves of Mr. Vignaud's historico-geographical collection.

It was Machiavelli who wrote to his friend Francesco Vettori, saying: "When evening falls I go home and enter my writing-room. On the threshold I put off my country habit . . . and array myself in royal courtly garments; thus worthily attired, I make my entrance into the ancient courts of the men of old, where they receive me with love, and where I feed upon that food which only is my own and for which I was born. I feel no shame in conversing with them and asking them the reason of their actions. They, moved by their humanity, make answer; for four hours' space I feel no annoyance, forget all care; poverty cannot frighten, nor death appall me. I am carried away to their society."

In this world lives Mr. Henry Vignaud.

Truly great is the wonder of knowledge, the glory of scholarship and the power of the scribe.

*Homo multarum literarum.*



## RECORDS OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA, XIV.

### INTRODUCTION

This a card index to the Judicial Records of the French Superior Council of Louisiana from 1717, the earliest date of any record we have found, to the end of the French Dominion, including the interregnum preceding the establishment of the Cabildo in the Spanish Period, in 1769. The index was prepared several years ago by William Price, Esq., for the Louisiana Historical Society, but at the time he was engaged upon the task the records had not been put in order nor had any general system of indexing been created. The Archive Department of the Society was organized in 1920, and our work has disclosed a very great number of papers of the Superior Council that were unknown to Mr. Price. These have now been indexed by Mrs. Cruzat, and they are noted and inserted in their proper place in the index as it is now being published.

The first installment appeared in the first number of the Quarterly, January, 1917, pages 103-115, under the title "Abstract of French and Spanish Documents Concerning the Early History of Louisiana", with an introduction by Miss Grace King, at page 10 of that issue. A second installment, under the same title, was printed in the same volume, pages 224-259, January 1918. The title was, however, misleading, because Mr. Price's work did not touch the Spanish records, and therefore it was changed to express what it really is, namely an index to the Superior Council Records, which are all French. The third installment (the first under the new title) appeared in Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 104-118, January 1919, with an explanatory note from Miss King referring the reader to Mr. Price's report upon his work in Louisiana Historical Publications, Vol 8, 1914-15, and this Report should be read by everyone interested in this series. Further installments have appeared somewhat irregularly as follows: Vol 2, No. 2, pp. 193-207; No. 3, pp. 328-342; No. 4, pp. 463-485; Vol 3, No. 1, pp. 141-150; No. 3, pp. 403-448; Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 218-249; No. 3, pp. 324-360; No. 4, pp. 483-528.

It is our intention to continue the publication of this index hereafter as a regular department in each issue of the Quarterly. We commend it to readers and students as an introduction to the domestic and legal life of Louisiana under the French Regime.

EDITOR LA. HISTORICAL QUARTERLY.



June 1, 1730. **Sale of Chassin Property.** Proceeds amounted to  
1p. 4. No. 30<sup>108</sup>. 264 francs and 15 sous, on desposit with Mr.  
See 30<sup>104</sup>. Rossard, recorder.

June 1, 1730. **Sale of Personal Effects.** Goods of the late Mes-  
2pp. plet, massacred at Natchez.  
No. 30<sup>108</sup> Total proceeds, 665 francs.  
See 30<sup>177</sup>. Scorched and Stained.

June 3, 1730. **Petition for Allowance.** Jacques Delachaise, his  
1p. brother and minor sister, beseech the Council to  
No. 30<sup>109</sup> authorize their guardian, Mr. Prat, to pay them  
See 30<sup>92</sup> such yearly advance from their portion in the  
estate as Council may approve, and in quarterly  
instalments. Let Madame Pradel also receive  
an allowance up to date of her marriage.  
Signed: Delachaise de la Chaise Pradel.  
No note by Court.  
Torn.

June 3, 1730. **Inventory of Property.** Personal and real estate  
2½pp. of the late Luis Jarry. Household goods,  
No. 30<sup>109</sup> clothing, three slaves, lot of ground and two  
houses. Madame veuve Jarry is custodian of  
said property.

June 3, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
1p. 1. Bordelon *vs.* D——. Out of Court.  
No. 30<sup>110</sup> 2. Nicolas Henry *vs.* Bonnaud and Rossard.  
Adjourned.  
See 30<sup>102</sup> 3. Bonnaud *vs.* Rossard. Sheep claim adjusted.  
4. Rossard *vs.* de Chavannes. Adjourned.

June 10, 1730. **Petition to Sell Land Grant.** Claude Trenaunnay  
1½pp. de Chanfret, sometime director of DuBuisson  
No. 30<sup>111</sup> grant at Bayagoula, seeing that those interested  
See 30<sup>129</sup> have decided to dissolve partnership, moves for  
auction of the entire property and its appurten-  
ances, with privilege to Mr. Estienne Du  
Buisson of buying the property back at 10%  
below highest bid.

Council (not being in Ireland), pronounces the  
like auction "illusory," and declines to authorize  
it; but permits appraisalment.

June 10, 1730. **Decision in Parish Suit.** Between the Parish  
1p. Priest at Kaskaskia, R. P. Tartarin, S. J., and his  
No. 30<sup>112</sup> parishioners. Question of repairing presbytery.  
Council orders the Church warden and settlers  
at (Kaskacias) Kaskaskia to execute main  
repairs; minor ones will devolve on the parish

priest. Local commander shall see to fulfilment of this ruling.

Perier, Bruslé, Prat, Baron, D'Auseville, MacMahon.

June 12, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>113</sup>.

**Petition for Discharge as Administrators.** Captain DeVauberey of La Baleine, and ship clerk De Touffreville, who had charge of the estate of the late Mr. Delorme, report that his widow has now arrived and being sole legatee she claims control of the unsettled business. Let some unco'd silverware, and papers found after the death of Mr. Delorme, be deposited in the treasury or in recorder's office, thereby releasing the petitioners from the estate concerns.

See 30<sup>119</sup>.

Council approves and Attorney General assents.

June 13, 1730.  
1p. No. 30<sup>114</sup>.  
See 30<sup>1171</sup>.

**Petition of Recovery.** Pierre De La Hogue claims 61 francs and 15 sous from Laurent Bordelon. Action allowed.

June 13, 1730.  
1p. No. 30<sup>115</sup>.  
See 30<sup>1172</sup>.

**Petition of Recovery.** Adrien Ricard, contractor, claims a residue debt of 20 francs from Sieur Durivage.

Action allowed.

June 17, 1730.  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>116</sup>.

**Complaint of False Witness.** Councillor Prat calls the Council's attention to a contemptible slur on the late President Delachaise, by way of a letter to his address from the Company's headquarters in France. Mr. D. is therein accused of omitting to place the seals on property of the late Mr. Duval, so that Company's interest suffered by illicit diversion of the "loose" goods. Mr. Prat himself, in presence of Mr. Rossard, placed the seals half an hour after Mr. Duval's death.

Due notice to be forwarded to Company.

Perier, Bruslé, Baron, Fleuriau.

Charred.

June 17, 1730.  
1p. No. 30<sup>117</sup>.  
See 30<sup>114</sup>.  
30<sup>115</sup>.

**Decisions in Two Suits.**

1. Pierre de la Hogue *vs.* Bordelon. For plaintiff.
2. Ricard *vs.* Durivage. For plaintiff.

June 18, 1730.  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>118</sup>.  
See 30<sup>122</sup>.

**Seals Placed.** First Councillor Antoine Bruslé sees to sealing the goods left by the late Jean Breanger, Captain of La Gironde, who died in the house of Mr. Pellerin, company storekeeper, in a small room beneath a gallery on the court yard side. Items of shoes and clothing.



- June 19, 1730. **Petition for Annulment of Sale and Will.** Mr. Rossard discredits the sale of four negroes by late Mr. de La Salle to Mr. de Chavannes, and the will of the deceased which was drawn up in the house of Mr. de C. Sale was not authorized by Council, as the law requires. Let Mr. de C. be cited to see the said sale and will declared void; let him return the four slaves, and let these be sold at auction, for paying debts, and the surplus, if any, be turned over to heirs.  
Attorney General orders the sale annulled and the slaves returned, and their hire shall be paid.  
Charred.
- 2pp.  
No. 30<sup>120</sup>
- See 30<sup>105</sup>,  
30<sup>142</sup>.
- June 19, 1730. **Petition for Inspection of Papers.** Elizabeth Guiot, widow of the late Mr. Delorme, requests an official examination of the papers which were deposited with Mr. Rossard, so that further arrangements may be advised.  
Approved.
- 1p. No. 30<sup>119</sup>.  
See 30<sup>118</sup>, 30<sup>121</sup>,  
30<sup>128</sup>.
- June 21, 1730. **Inventory of Papers.** Councillor Prat, in the presence of Madame De Lorme, unseals the designated box of papers deposited with Mr. Rossard, and finds therein as inventory prepared by Captain de Vauberey of La Baleine and ship clerk de Touffreville, on past March 23.  
Everything proved to tally with said list of March 23. Box remains in recorder's office.  
Signed: Prat, Delorme.
- 1p.  
No. 30<sup>121</sup>.
- See 30<sup>119</sup>.
- June 22, 1730. **Inventory and Valuation of Goods.** Report of proceedings at Mr. Pellerin's house, with a view to subsequent auction of the goods in question, property of late Jean Beranger, Captain of La Gironde.  
Signed: Buttet. (Jean Buttet being a nephew of Mr. Pellerin.)
- 2pp.  
No. 30<sup>122</sup>.
- See 30<sup>118</sup>  
30<sup>159</sup>.
- June 26, 1730. **Report on Drowning.** First Councillor Antoine Bruslé and Attorney General François Fleuriau visit the body of one Pierre Proyver, soldier of D'Artaguet Company, drowned in the Mississippi opposite the Company's bakery. No wound discovered by Surgeon Major de Reytet.
- 1p.  
No. 30<sup>123</sup>.
- See 30<sup>124</sup>.
- June 26, 1730. **Surgeon's Report.** Surgeon Major Jean de Reytet certifies that no mark of wounding appeared on the body of Pierre Prayver, accidentally drowned in the Mississippi between the bakery and the mill. P. P. was about 26 years old, of
- 1p.  
No. 30<sup>124</sup>.
- See 30<sup>123</sup>.

brown complexion, long hair, square shoulders,  
5 feet 3 in stature.

Edges worn.

June 26, 1730. **Acknowledgment of Debt.** La Croix owes 30  
Slip. francs to S—— and promises to pay on demand.  
No. 30<sup>123</sup>. Torn and faded.

June 30, 1730. **Contract to Build a House.** Michel Vien agrees  
1p. to build a house as described in detail, for  
No. 30<sup>126</sup>. Raymond Amyault D'Auseville, who will furnish  
assistant slave labor. Terms, 250 francs, money  
of this country. House to be of timber, with  
three rooms, twelve windows, a gallery five feet  
wide; rafters closely spaced, for double flooring  
in Canadian fashion. Building to rest on blocks  
about five feet above ground level. Length of  
house, 45 to 50 feet, by 22 or more feet wide.

Signed: Vien

D'Auseville.

June 28, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Jan Deslandes, attorney  
1p. No. 30<sup>127</sup>. for Jean Baptiste La Vigne, claims 136 francs  
from Sieur Vien, due on his note of April 15,  
1730.

See 30<sup>144</sup>1.

La Vigne is an Illinois settler.

Action allowed.

June 28, 1730. **Petition to Recover Papers.** Elizabeth Guiot,  
1p. No. 30<sup>128</sup>. widow of Mr. DeLorme, asks possession of the  
papers deposited with Mr. Rossard. She will  
return them on request.

See 30<sup>119</sup>.

30<sup>149</sup>.

Granted.

Outer edge torn away.

July 1, 1730. **Petition for Appraisement.** Estienne DuBuisson  
2pp. reports that Mr. Trenaunnay refuses to agree  
No. 30<sup>129</sup>. on expert appraisers of DuBuisson Grant, in  
accordance with Council's permission to such  
intent. Let Mr. T. be cited, and if he will not  
name a viewer on his side, let one be appointed.  
Mr. DuBuisson selects Jean Baptiste Massy.

See 30<sup>111</sup>,

30<sup>135</sup>1,

30<sup>141</sup>.

Action allowed.

July 1, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Antoine Meullion, formerly  
1p. surgeon at Le Buisson grant, Bayagoula,  
No. 30<sup>130</sup>. claims a salary account of 1097 francs + from  
Mr. Estienne Buisson.

See 30<sup>134</sup>.

Action allowed.

Duplicated.



- July 3, 1730. **Petition for Indemnity.** Surgeon Antoine Meullion has been accused by Mr. Estienne DuBuisson of carrying drugs away which belonged to DuBuisson grant. Let Mr. DuB. be cited on opening of the surgeon's trunk, now seized in recorder's office. The petitioner holds receipts from apothecaries in France and in this country for the drugs which he has bought and retains in his own possession. Redress desired.  
1p.  
No. 30132.  
See 30134,  
301352.  
30139.  
Action allowed.  
Duplicated.
- July 3, 1730. **Petition in Recovery.** Mr. Rossard, attorney for vacant estates, asks leave to cite the debtors of Klasion estate, that he may settle such accounts.  
1p.  
No. 30131.  
Action allowed.
- July 8, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Joseph Lazou claims a board bill of 180 francs from estate of late François Diserbois, whom petitioner fed during 45 days while F. D. was ill. Let Mr. Rossard, attorney, be cited.  
1p.  
No. 30133.  
See 301476.  
Action allowed.
- July 8, 1730. **Memorandum of Medical Supplies.** Statement of drugs charged to Surgeon Meullion (by LeBuisson grant). Classified under three heads: "Drugs used inappropriately for the negroes, like manna and rhubarb." "Drugs for which Sieur M. is in arrear." "Drugs found in the trunk of Sieur M., July 8, 1730." Total is based on the first two heads, and amounts to 709 francs, 4 sous.  
2pp.  
No. 30134.  
See 30132,  
30134a.  
30160.  
Neatly written.
- July 8, 1730. **Inventory of Drugs.** Report on contents of the trunk belonging to Surgeon Antoine Meullion. Contents examined in presence of Surgeon Manadé and Surgeon Major Alexandre, as witnesses, besides those officially present.  
2pp.  
No. 30134a.  
See 30132.  
30139.  
Signed: Fleuriau, Meullion, P. DeManadé, Alexandre, Rossard, recorder.
- July 8, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
1p. No. 30135.  
See 30129.  
30132, 30180,  
30181.  
1. DuBuisson *vs.* De Trenaunnay. Adjourned.  
2. Antoine Meullion *vs.* DuBuisson grant. Trunk to be opened and receipts compared.  
3. — *vs.* —. Defendant in default; judgment for plaintiff.

- July 10, 1730. **Copy of Petition of Recovery.** Claude Trenaunay Chanfret was allowed his claim of 373 francs, 15 sous, with interest at 10% on account of fluctuation in rate of exchange, against the late Mr. Kolly. Transaction dates back to December 1720, and turns on a protested draft. Let Mr. Rossard, attorney, be cited to satisfy ruling of past December 24.  
Action allowed.
- July 10 and 30, 1730. **Petition for Loan of Rice and Cows.** Jacques Cantrell lost all his goods at Natchez massacre save four negroes. He would now get settled at a site above Chapitoulas, but need assistance. The Company will please to advance him 30 barrels of rice in straw, to be repaid at first crop, and two cows whose first four calves he promises to turn over to Company in place of the cows.  
Council allows him the rice and one cow. Bond required in each case.  
Signed: Perier, Bruslé, D'Auseville, Macmahon.
- July 11, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Mr. Rossard claims 170 francs and 14 sous from Mr. Trenaunay de Chanfret, due on his notes of September 6 and 9, 1729.  
Action allowed.
- July 12, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Herpin, Company's employe, claims 250 francs from Nicolas Pieron alias Vendosme, for value received in a cask of red wine, as vouched by note of past April 8.  
Action allowed.  
Good writing.
- July 14, 1730. **Copy of Petition for Indemnity.** Surgeon Antoine Meuillion reports that his trunk was duly overhauled and found not to contain drugs, as falsely charged, belonging to DuBuisson grant. Amende and redress besought. Petitioner sets his loss at 1000 francs, including his detention in this town while vainly waiting for his overdue salary.  
Notice served to Mr. Estienne DuBuisson.
- July 15, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
1. Rossard *vs.* De Trenaunay de Chanfret. For R.  
2. Prat *vs.* Pellerin. Defendant discharged from plaintiff's demand. "Costs nevertheless divided."



3. — *vs.* Bonil. — in default; B. cleared of demand.

4. Bordesou *vs.* De Manadé. B. nonsuited and subject to costs.

July 18, 1730. **Petition to Despatch Appraisement.** Estienne DuBuisson complains that Mr. De Trenaunay has not named an appraiser, as provided by Council's ruling in the case; and neither will Mr. T. close a certain account in the case, on which petitioner's account rests contingent.

See 30<sup>129</sup>, 30<sup>145</sup>,  
30<sup>142</sup>.

Let Mr. T. be cited and brought to terms.  
Action allowed.

July 18, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Nicolas Rousseau claims 386 francs from estate of late Mesplet. Unfortunately the bond of Mr. M. was lost in the disaster at Natchez; but N. R. has certificate from Mr. Dufresne, who saw the bond, which was payable "to order." Let Mr. Rossard, attorney, be cited.

See 30<sup>147</sup>.  
30<sup>142a</sup>.

Action allowed.

July 18, 1730. **Acknowledgment of Rice Loan.** Jacques Cantrell has received of Mr. Pellerin, Company storekeeper, 30 barrels of rice in straw, which the Council lends him in aid of his affairs. He promises to return the loan at next crop. Mortgage security.

See 30<sup>154</sup>.

Signed: Cantrell, Dargaray, Droy, Rossard,  
notary.  
Edges worn.

July 18, 1730. **Decisions in Two Suits.**

1p. No. 30<sup>144</sup>.  
See 30<sup>127</sup>.

1. Jean Deslanes *vs.* Vien (La vigne). V. to pay claim of 136 francs in money or goods at specified rate.

See 30<sup>120</sup>.

2. Rossard *vs.* de Chavannes. Sale voided; negroes to be returned to R., attorney, for sale at auction. Hire of negroes to be paid.

July 20, 1730. **Petition to Waive Appraisement.** Claude Trenaunay Chanfret protests against Mr. DuBuisson's proposed valuation of DuBuisson grant. By terms of an agreement reached by the proprietors on May 14, 1729, and consistently with act of incorporation dated November 1, 1717, the petitioner was fully empowered to conduct the requested sale; all he needs is Council's permission to ratify his powers. Let Mr. Du B. be nonsuited, and sale at auction take place.

2pp. No. 30<sup>145</sup>.

See 30<sup>141</sup>,  
30<sup>146</sup>.

Communicated to Mr. Estienne DuBuisson.  
Duplicated.

July 20, 1730. **Petition for Methodical Accounting.** Claude  
1p. Trenaunnay Chanfret, charged by the owners  
No. 30<sup>146</sup>. of DuBuisson grant with verifying the account

See 30<sup>145</sup>.  
30<sup>147</sup>.  
30<sup>173</sup>.

of Mr. François DuBuisson Monferrier, some-  
time steward and storekeeper of said grant,  
bewails the latter's troublesome bookkeeping  
and asks that he, Mr. F. DuB. M., be compelled  
to transfer his daybook accounts into an orderly  
ledger. Let Mr. F. be nonsuited, moreover, in  
his demands of a board allowance on the empty  
assertion that the petitioner wastes F.'s time  
by delayed accounting.

Communicated to F. DuB. M.

July 22, 1730.  
1p. No. 30<sup>147</sup>.  
See 30<sup>146</sup>, 30<sup>306</sup>.

**Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

30<sup>141</sup>.

30<sup>139</sup>.

30<sup>142</sup>.

30<sup>133</sup>.

1. François DuBuisson *vs.* De Trenaunnay.  
Accounts to be closed at once. Costs re-  
served.

2. Estienne Du Buisson *vs.* Trenaunnay. Mr.  
Delery named appraiser by Council. Valua-  
tion shall be effected.

3. Antoine Meuillion *vs.* Estienne DuBuisson.  
Out of Court.

4. Nicolas Rousseau *vs.* Rossard. Pending.

5. Perrine Le Hardi widow Reboul *vs.* Rossard.  
Plaintiff nonsuited; negress to be sold at  
auction.

6. Joseph Lazou *vs.* Rossard. Complicated  
settlement ordered.

Signed: Perier, Bruslé, D'Auseville (Dlle),  
Macmahon, Baron.

July 26, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>148</sup>.

See 30<sup>153</sup>.

**Petition of Recovery.** Pierre Renaudau alias  
Sanschagrin claims an aggregate amount of 157  
francs from one Beaucourt, contractor, for a  
board bill of 140 francs and an advance of 17  
francs in goods, on account of Beaucourt's  
workman St. Pierre.  
Action allowed.

July 27, 1730.  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>149</sup>.

See 30<sup>123</sup>,  
30<sup>165</sup>.

**Petition to Recover Goods.** Dame Elizabeth  
Guitot, widow of late Mr. De Lorme, embarked  
a quantity of goods by the transport La Gironde,  
as shown by subjoined bill of lading. She would  
herewith recover a particular consignment of  
brandy.

Notice served to ship's clerk Jambert.

Charred, and the writing blurred by trans-  
lucency of paper.



July 28, 1730. **Proceedings in Marriage Settlement Case.**  
Fort Chartres. Dame Françoise Marin, widow of late Officer  
3pp. Dubois, files an inventory of joint property from  
No. 30<sup>150</sup>. her former marriage, with a view to separation  
of goods and on July 28, her present husband,  
Marin, files an inventory of the goods which he  
wishes to share with Madame. Chief Articles  
from first marriage of Madame are cattle and an  
Indian maid: the latter valued at 400 francs.  
Furs are the leading asset of Marin's; but he,  
too, owned some slaves.

July 28, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Guillame Fouché, recently  
1p. arrived from Illinois, sold a bill of goods at that  
No. 30<sup>151</sup>. "post" to one Charles Roquet (Rochet) alias  
Des Vertus, carpenter, in exchange for some  
flour, which has not been paid.

Let the claim be attached on Le Rochet's  
labor.

No note by Court.

July 28, 1730. **Petition for Reward in Runaway Case.** Julien  
1p. Gaultier reminds the Council that he captured  
No. 30<sup>152</sup>. a runaway negro, about six weeks ago, towards  
4 A. M., belonging to Sieur Boissiere (for the  
time being: Company's property, it appears).  
There is a reward allowed in such cases, and  
the petitioner hopes to receive one.

No note by Court.

July 29, 1730. **Decision Between Renaudot and Beaucourt.**  
1p. R.'s claims allowed.  
See 30<sup>149</sup>.

Aug. 1, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** François Alix alias La Rose  
1p. claims 300 francs for his time, and 43 francs, 10  
No. 30<sup>155</sup>. sous for supplies, from Arnaud Bonnaud.  
Action allowed.

Aug. 1, 1730. **Petition for Honorable Amends.** Jonathas Darby  
1p. complains that Mr. Malon accuses him of  
No. 30<sup>156</sup>. theft, and anon of forgery in the matter of a  
tobacco transaction between them, and lost  
note. J. D. has hitherto enjoyed a good repu-  
tation, and would not now pass for a thief,  
knave or forger. Let Malon be cited to make  
appropriate amends as the Council sees fit.

Action allowed.

- Aug. 2, 1730. **Petition to Recover Slave.** Nothing daunted by tedious repetition, Charles Droy, trustee of Millon minors, revives the still unsettled litigation over a certain slave belonging to the estate of late Abbé D'Arquevaux, but continually withheld by the LeBlanc land grant. Let Mr. Bonnaud, inspector, be cited to satisfy this claim once for all; arrears of hire included.  
Action allowed.
- 2pp.  
No. 30<sup>157</sup>.
- See 28<sup>73</sup>.  
30<sup>183</sup>.
- Aug. 2, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Mr. Rossard, attorney for vacant estates, moves for the citation of R. P. Raphael to pay a certain sum of 80 piastres, owing to the estate of late R. P. Maximien.  
Action allowed.  
Charred and broken.
- 1p.  
No. 30<sup>158</sup>.
- See 30<sup>168</sup>1.
- Aug. 2, 1730. **Sale of Be-anger Goods.** Total proceeds, 1121 francs, awaiting further disposition.  
Signed: Jean Buttet.
- 3pp. No. 30<sup>159</sup>.  
See 30<sup>122</sup>.
- Aug. 3, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Antoine Aufrère, attorney for Surgeon Antoine Meuillion, remonstrates that Mr. Estienne DuBuisson's unsigned and undated memorandum is a mere pretext for evading payment of the 517 francs and 1 sou due the surgeon for salary and passage money (residue amount thereof). Let Mr. DuBuisson be cited to settle.  
Action allowed.
- 1p.  
No. 30<sup>160</sup>.
- See 30<sup>134</sup>.  
30<sup>171</sup>1.  
30<sup>177</sup>.
- Aug. 5, 1730. **Acknowledgment of Debt.** Fontaine owes (or order) Mr. de St. Julien the sum of 150 francs, value received.
- Aux Tonicas.  
Slip. No. 30<sup>161</sup>.  
See 30<sup>162</sup>.
- Aug. 5, 1730. **Letter of St. Julien to Rossard.** Transmitting obligations which Mr. R. will please to receipt on payment. Particulars added. A cert in item of 2000 francs is to be reserved for a little girl of the writter's until she be marriageable to Ableard de La Fontaine.
- 3pp.  
No. 30<sup>162</sup>.  
See 30<sup>161</sup>.
- Aug. 7, 1730. **Certificate of Loan.** Undersigned Pradel attests that Mr. Rossard lent to the late Sieur Chassis a note for 100 francs to buy goods, and that C. bought some auction goods on which he gave his note in Mr. Rossard's name, when leaving for Natchez. The note was lost.
- Slip.  
No. 30<sup>163</sup>.



- Aug. 7, 1730. **Surgeon's Report.** Dr. Jean de Reytet submits a minutely detailed report of his post mortem examination of a negro named Brunet, belonging to Councillor D'Auseville. Marks of gangrene about the cavity otherwise known as the ventricle. An intestinal worm discovered, ten inches long, armed with a "dart." Gall duct void of bile. (Gangrene seems to have ensued from a bruise and confined blood clot.)  
Well written.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>164</sup>.  
See 30<sup>179</sup>.
- Aug. 9, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Madame Elizabeth Guitot, widow of late De Lorme, repeats her plea on behalf of the brandy consignment.  
Notice served to Sieur Jambert, ship's clerk of transport La Gironde.  
Charred.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>165</sup>.  
See 30<sup>149</sup>  
30<sup>1712</sup>.
- Aug. 11, 1730. **Petition for Appointment of Guardians.** Jacques Carrière de Malozé moves for the election of a guardian and surrogate guardian for the minor daughter, Marie Françoise Carrière, of the petitioner and Marie's late mother, Marie Françoise Babin.  
Approved.  
Stained.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>166</sup>.  
See 30<sup>169</sup>.  
30<sup>176</sup>.
- Aug. 12, 1730. **Petition for Indemnity.** Chauvin Delery shows that Joseph Blanpain, by contract dated Aug. 31, 1729, engaged to build a mill for C. D., with six saws, to be finished by Christmas of same year. Terms, 3000 francs of which 1900 were paid. Mill proves very defective and incapable of sawing. Let viewers be named and report filed for subsequent procedure.  
Action allowed.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>167</sup>.  
See 30<sup>170</sup>.
- Aug. 12, 1730. **Petition in Two Suits.**  
1p. No. 30<sup>168</sup>.  
See 30<sup>158</sup>.  
30<sup>138</sup>.  
1. Rossard *vs.* R. P. Raphael. Defendant to pay 300 francs on a certain salary account; surplus to stay with R. P. R.  
2. Herpin *vs.* Nicolas Pieron. Claim allowed (290 francs).
- Aug. 14, 1730. **Inventory of Carriere Property.** Proceedings conducted on motion of Jacques Carrière de Malazé, now guardian of his minor daughter. Both movables and real estate included. Plantation lay seven leagues from town. The property belonging in joint possession to Carrière and his deceased wife, mother of minor Marie  
3pp.  
No. 30<sup>169</sup>.  
See 30<sup>166</sup>.  
30<sup>176</sup>.

Françoise Carrière. Total estimate not reported. Jacques C. stays custodian.

Partly torn and stained nearly black.

- Aug. 19, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Blanpain disclaims defective workmanship on Mr. Delery's sawmill. The trouble is, Mr. D. gave too little flow to the race, thereby flooding and stalling the wheel. It is true, the timber is not good in all respects, but this, again, is Mr. D.'s fault. If he will gladly remedy what needs reconstruction. B. objects to Mr. D.'s proposed viewer Falcon, a prejudiced party. Green warped wood is the main flow in the construction; but in any case B. demands his full payment.

No note by Court.

- Aug. 19, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
 1p. No. 30171.  
 See 30160.  
 1. Aufrère *vs.* Estienne DuBuisson. A. non-suited.  
 2. Elizabeth Guitot *vs.* Jambert. J. to deliver brandy.  
 See 30165.  
 30170. 3. Joseph Chauvin Delery *vs.* Blanpain. Mill shall be viewed and report submitted.

- Aug. 22, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Raymond Amyault D'Auseville claims 1500 francs from Joseph Blanpain, due on his bond (of date not mentioned).  
 1p. No. 30172.  
 See 301752. Action allowed.

- Aug. 22, 1730. **Petition for Inspection of Accounts.** (Incessant litigant) Claude Trenaunnay Chanfret still again moves for the citation of Mr. Estienne DuBuisson, to examine the petitioner's accounts, which turn on advances made by the petitioner in France for benefit of DuB. land grant.  
 1p. No. 30173.  
 See 30146.  
 301753.  
 3122. Action allowed.

- Aug. 23, 1730. **Power of Attorney.** High and Mighty Messire Paul de Montesquion, Count D'Artagnan, Brigadier of the King's armies; Messire Jean Dufour, Brigadier and Aide-Major of First Company of Musketeers of King's Guard; and Messire Jean Baptiste Martin (D'Artaguet passage torn) Diron, Baron Daguere, Marquis de La Mothe (sequence torn), to François Calimache, citizen of Paris, for business with Master Estienne de Benac Chevalier of St. Louis, now manager of said noble parties' property in Louisiana. In short, DeBanc is recalled and F. C. succeeds him.  
 Paris.



**Aug. 26, 1730. Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1p. No. 30<sup>175</sup>.

See 30<sup>156</sup>.

30<sup>172</sup>.

30<sup>173</sup>.

30<sup>204</sup>.

1. Jonathas Darby *vs.* Malon. Conclusion omitted.

2. D'Auseville *vs.* Blanpin. B. to pay.

3. De Trenaunnay *vs.* Estienne DuBuisson. Referred for advisement before (J. B.) Massy and Mr. Raquet.

**Aug. 28, 1730. Breach of Promise Suit.** Demoiselle Corentine

1p.

No. 30<sup>176</sup>.

See 30<sup>166</sup>.

30<sup>182</sup>.

Millon appeals to Very Reverend Father Raphael de Luxembourg, Mission Superior, Official and Grand Vicar of Bishop of Quebec, against Jacques Carrière Malozé, with whom she signed a marriage contract, the banns being published. J. C. M. now refuses to fulfill his promises; let him be sentenced to fulfill the same.

Action granted by R. P. R., and notice served to J. C. M. by Sheriff Dargaray, for hearing on Saturday next before R. P. R.

**Aug. 29, 1730. "Measly" Copy of Recovery Suit.** Surgeon Antoine

2pp.

No. 30<sup>177</sup>.

See 30<sup>160</sup>.

30<sup>180</sup>.

despite some contrary procedure, insists on his residue salary claim of 517 francs against Mr. Estienne DuBuisson; and he would also have an attorney admitted to conduct the case in petitioner's absence.

Notice served to Mr. E. DuB.

Copied on trash paper, worn, stained, cramped and miserly.

(Unless there was a paper famine in Court offices.)

**Aug. 29, 1730. Petition of Recovery.** Pierre Piquery claims 200

1p. No. 30<sup>178</sup>.

francs of Sergeant de La Bouchardiére, due on his note of April 3, 1730.

Action allowed.

See 30<sup>182</sup>.

**Aug. 30, 1730. Petition to Prosecute Monster Overseer.** Coun-

6pp.

No. 30<sup>179</sup>.

cillor Amyault D'Auseville's now aggravated charges against his abominable overseer Jacques Charpentier (alias Le Roy), leave the romance of Uncle Tom's Cabin in the pale, tame shadows. And the Councillor evidently knows what he is talking about. He first came to true insight upon the overseer's infamy through surgeon's report on the dead negro Brunet. Other horrors dwarf that one in various directions. Practical contention is, let Charpentier retract his lease, quit the plantation, be sentenced to 20000 francs by way of damages. Immediate action ordered, and measures of correction defined.

Perier, Bruslé, Baron, Macmahon.

Countersigned by Fleuriau. 2 Sept., 1730.

Sept. 1, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Mr. Estienne DuBuisson reviews the seesaw litigation between Surgeon Antoine Meuillion and himself, and aims to hold the surgeon in a fog of adverse rulings. E. DuB. is willing to pay what he reckons due to the surgeon, but not what the latter claims. Fore-close further action of A. M.

3pp.  
No. 30<sup>180</sup>.  
See 30<sup>177</sup>.  
30<sup>181</sup>.

Communicated to A. M.

References to seesaw litigation: 30<sup>130</sup>, 30<sup>132</sup>, 30<sup>134</sup>, 30<sup>134a</sup>, 30<sup>1352</sup>, 30<sup>1353</sup>, 30<sup>139</sup>, 30<sup>1473</sup>, 30<sup>160</sup>, 30<sup>1711</sup>, 31<sup>70</sup>.

Sept. 1, 1730. **Rejoinder to Remonstrance.** Surgeon Antoine Meuillion strives to tilt the seesaw in his own favor. Judgment of July 8 sustained A. M. by default of Estienne DuBuisson, and the like judgment stays valid for execution unless opposed, and therefore A. M. is entitled to his just dues. The nonsuited plea was another matter, not voiding yonder sentence of July 8. Let residue claim of 517 francs be paid.

2pp.  
No. 30<sup>181</sup>.

See 30<sup>1353</sup>.  
30<sup>160</sup>.  
30<sup>1711</sup>.  
30<sup>180</sup>.  
30<sup>1831</sup>.

No note by Court.

Torn.

Sept. 2, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Demoiselle Corentine Millon files her objection to a certain exacted concession which was elicited from her in the breach of promise affair. (Intermediate record, if extant, has come to light at this writing.) She means to bring action just as she sees fit, and against whom concerned, and has not renounced the thought of legal procedure.

1p.  
No. 30<sup>182</sup>.

See 30<sup>176</sup>.  
30<sup>1853</sup>.  
30<sup>189</sup>.

No note by Court.

Sept. 2, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1p. No. 30<sup>183</sup>.  
See 30<sup>181</sup>.  
30<sup>178</sup>.  
30<sup>73</sup>.  
30<sup>157</sup>.

1. Antoine Meuillion *vs.* Estienne DuBuisson. Arbitration ordered (31<sup>70</sup>.)
2. Piquery *vs.* La Bouchardière. For P.
3. Charles Droy *vs.* Bonnaud. Abbé's will (again) declared void. Attorney of vacant estates shall account for the Abbé's property, and collect where incumbent. Settlement thereafter.

Sept. 4, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Jacques Livet sold a house and appurtenances to one Dupérier for 200 francs, payable to the Company on account of J. L. D. sold on same terms to Sautier, who went back to France in 1727, and far from satisfying contract, brings a false charge against J. L. for 50 francs. Let Sautier be cited to pay

1p.  
No. 30<sup>184</sup>.

See 30<sup>194</sup>.



200 francs to Company, or else let J. L. get back his property.

Void the spurious note of 50 francs.

Action allowed.

Sept. 4, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

2pp.

No. 30<sup>185</sup>.

See 30<sup>182</sup>.

30<sup>170</sup>.

30<sup>126</sup>.

1. Buteler *vs.* Marsilly. B.'s claim allowed.
2. Buteler *vs.* Prat. Claim allowed.
3. R. P. Raphael and C. Millon *vs.* Carriere. Referred to Attorney General.
4. Chauvin *vs.* Blanpin. Further in process.
5. D'Auseville *vs.* Vien. Arbitration advised.
6. D'Auseville *vs.* Buqoy alias Plaisance. For D'A.
7. La Bouchardière *vs.* Durivage. For L. B.
8. Pasquier *vs.* Rossard. Negress to be sold. Case of Drouillon *vs.* Larchevesque adjourned.

Sept. 5, 1730. **Petition to Prosecute Scoundrel Overseer.** Coun-

4pp.

No. 30<sup>186</sup>.

See 30<sup>179</sup>.

30<sup>187</sup>.

cillor Amyault D'Auseville supplements his earlier charges against Jacques Charpentier alias Le Roy with especial stress on the overseer's fool cruelty (senseless no less than devilish) in the direction of starving the cattle, exhausting the slaves by long hours and vile fare (one meal of rotten beans a day), and causing continual abortions. But the overseer is cunning no less than brutish, and manages to conceal most of his crimes from white witnesses. Let negroes also be admitted in the trial proceedings.

Approved: Prat.

Sept. 5 1730. **D'Auseville vs. Charpentier (Le Roy).** Giving

1p. No. 30<sup>187</sup>.

See 30<sup>179</sup>, 30<sup>190</sup>.

the devil his due, Council orders that the accused Le Roy be heard and examined.

N. B.—The scribbler of these cards came from a northern State, and possibly retains a traditional Union bias towards slavery. But the charges of brutality in this case and others among the French records of Louisiana Province are adduced by an acclimated slave owner, speaking right from the spot and core of that abolished "institution."

Sept. 5, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Michel Bordier, baker,

1p. No. 30<sup>188</sup>.

See 30<sup>193</sup>.

claims 500 francs from Sieur Contois, due on his note of Feb. 18, 1730.

Action allowed.

Sept. 5, 1730. **Petition in Breach of Promise Suit.** Demoiselle  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>189</sup>.  
See 30<sup>182</sup>, 30<sup>1951</sup>,  
30<sup>196</sup>.  
Charlotte Corentine Millon shows that J.  
Carrière's change of mind was owing to slan-  
derous reports on her character. She would  
have Carrière and other designated parties  
summoned to prove charges, or else pay fine of  
10,000 francs.  
Action allowed.

Sept. 5, 1730. **D'Auseville vs. Charpentier alias Le Roy.**  
1p. No. 30<sup>190</sup>.  
See 30<sup>187</sup>, 30<sup>191</sup>.  
Charpentier shall first be heard and examined.

Sept. 7, 1730. **Petition to Reinforce Prosecution.** Councillor  
2½pp.  
No. 30<sup>191</sup>.  
See 30<sup>190</sup>,  
30<sup>203</sup>.  
Amyault D'Auseville reports that Charpentier  
has taken revenge on the negro Brunet's account  
by beating Bizao, Brunet's wife, on the head and  
breast with closed fists. The overseer feels  
himself the more immune because in his con-  
tract of lease there was no proviso holding  
him for damages as regards injured slaves. Let  
the petitioner's negroes be heard as witnesses.  
Approved: Prat.

Sept. 8, 1730. **Testimonial on Character.** Undersigned Du-  
1p. No. 30<sup>192</sup>.  
See 30<sup>192a</sup>,  
30<sup>193</sup>.  
Buisson, Chevalier de Louboy, major of the  
Colony, De Mondreloir and F. de Bellile certify  
to the correct, honest and upright life of Mon-  
sieur Macmahon since he has come to this  
Colony.

Sept. 8, 1730. **Testimonial on Character.** R. P. Raphael at-  
1p. No. 30<sup>192a</sup>.  
See 30<sup>192</sup>, 30<sup>193</sup>,  
31<sup>89</sup>.  
tests that Mr. Laurent Macmahon professes the  
Christian Catholic Apostolic and Roman reli-  
gion and has practiced the same at N. O., both  
by attending divine service and by partaking  
of the sacraments.

Sept. 9, 1730. **Admission of Councillor Macmahon.** In view  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>193</sup>.  
See 30<sup>192</sup>, 30<sup>192a</sup>,  
30<sup>179</sup>, 30<sup>154</sup>,  
30<sup>147</sup>.  
of his credentials from the King, of the recom-  
mendations accorded him by Messieurs of the  
Company, under date of April 17 and 23, 1730,  
and of other satisfactory preludes Mr. Mac-  
mahon is received in the office of Councillor.  
(He had already been signing Court papers.)

Sept. 9, 1730. **Remonstrance.** J. Sautier reasons that Livet's re-  
1p. No. 30<sup>194</sup>.  
See 30<sup>184</sup>,  
30<sup>1952</sup>.  
ceipt to Perier is useless to J. S. P. owes noth-  
ing to the Company, but owed the item of 50  
crowns to Levesque. By all appearances, Livet  
has received payment, whereas Perier has not  
paid his debt to Levesque.  
No note by Court.



Sept. 9, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1p. No. 30<sup>195</sup>.

See 30<sup>189</sup>.

30<sup>194</sup>.

30<sup>188</sup>.

1. Demoiselle Millon *vs.* Carrière. Adjourned.
2. Jacques Lyvet *vs.* Sautier. S. to pay 200 francs to treasury.
3. Michel Bordier *vs.* Contois. C. to pay 500 francs.

Sept. 12, 1730. **Statement in Breach of Promise Suit.** On be-

1p.

No. 30<sup>196</sup>

See 30<sup>189</sup>,

30<sup>197</sup>.

half of Dame Carrière Charles François Lemoine, not Lemoyne, reports that while waiting in the rain at Dame Bompard's, he heard a soldier tattle that Mademoiselle Millon had a child (deceased), and that was why she came to this Province.

(It was not stated whether there was anything besides rain to moisten the soldier's whistle.)

Sept. 13, 1730. **Statement in Breach of Promise Suit.** Dame

1p.

No. 30<sup>197</sup>.

See 30<sup>196</sup>,

30<sup>198</sup>.

Françoise Jalot, wife of François Carrière, hears rumors from several sources, but especially by way of François Larche, to the discredit of Demoiselle Charlotte Corentine Millon. F. L., at no less authoritative a stand than that of wig-maker barber La Pierre's, heard two men repeat that they knew Demoiselle Millon and her family, and that she had had a child.

Sept. 14, 1730. **Summons to Plead Breach of Promise Suit.**

1p.

No. 30<sup>198</sup>.

See 30<sup>197</sup>,

30<sup>199</sup>.

At the instance of Jacques Carrière de Malozé and of Dame Françoise Jallote (Jalot), wife of François Carrière, let Demoiselle Charlotte Corentine Millon be cited to appear on Saturday next and plead in the pending suit.

Signed: *fame* Carrière, Carrière Mallozé.

Notice served by Sheriff Dargaray.

Sept. 14, 1730. **Procedure in Breach of Promise Suit.** Council

1p.

No. 30<sup>199</sup>.

See 30<sup>198</sup>,

30<sup>200</sup>.

orders a week's interval wherein Dame Carrière shall file the source of her statement in discredit of Demoiselle Charlotte Corentine Millon.

Communicated to said Demoiselle. Charred.

Sept. 16, 1730. **Petition in Breach of Promise Suit.** Demoiselle.

2pp.

No. 30<sup>200</sup>.

See 30<sup>199</sup>,

30<sup>201</sup>.

Charlotte Corentine Millon (or her excellent advocate, whose handwriting resembles that of D'Auseville documents), moves for application of strictest formalities in case of the parties quoted by slanderous Dame Carrière. One must get at the poisoned fountain head of such damaging rumors, which gain the readier cur-

rency on account of Dame Carrière's pious manner of insinuation. Immigrants to the Colony have rights to be protected; the public weal is itself impaired by the harboring of unfounded calumnies.

No note by Court.

Sept. 16, 1730. **Breach of Promise Suit. Dame Tattle Foiled!**  
1p.

No. 30<sup>201</sup>. Attorney General Fleuriau recommends that Jacques Carrière Malozé be sentenced to 3000 francs for indemnity towards Demoiselle Millon by reason of his breach of contract and that Dame Jalot Carrière be bound to recognize Demoiselle Millon as a virtuous and honest maid, and this in open Council.

See 30<sup>200</sup>,  
30<sup>202</sup>,  
31<sup>15</sup>.

Costs on Carrière parties.

Sept. 16, 1730. **Millon vs. Carrière.** Formal record of Attorney General's order, by Council confirmed.

1p. No. 30<sup>202</sup>. Bruslé, Prat, D.Ile (D'Auseville), Macmahon, Baron.

See 30<sup>201</sup>, 30<sup>230</sup>.

Fine watermark: Crown over cluster.

Sept. 18, 1730. **Testimony on Overseer Charpentier.** Very meagre evidence from witnesses Albert Bonne,

2½pp. Anne Coudret, wife of Jean Baptiste Leonard and Surgeon Pierre de Manadé. A. B. heard "early ringing;" Anne C. sustains charge of hungry cattle, and the surgeon felt obliged to report the overseer to Councillor D'Auseville for striking a negro with an axe handle.

See 30<sup>191</sup>.

Attorney General orders hearing of Charpentier.

Sept. 19, 1730. **Arbitration Ordered.** Antoine Meuillion vs. Du-  
1p. No. 30<sup>204</sup>. Buisson. Parties referred to arbitration named

See 30<sup>1753</sup>, in ruling of past August 26.  
30<sup>205</sup>, 30<sup>208</sup>. Notice served to Mr. Estienne DuBuisson.

Sept. 19, 1730. **Summons to Submit Memorandum of Account.**  
1p.

No. 30<sup>205</sup>. Sheriff Dargaray notifies Mr. Estienne DuBuisson to produce at once a detailed and signed report of his "difficulties" in the way of paying an aggregate sum of 1615 francs to Surgeon Antoine Meuillion. This amount includes an extra six month's allowance after closed account, and 200 francs for passage money.

See 30<sup>204</sup>,  
30<sup>206</sup>,  
30<sup>208</sup>. The arbitrators are to be guided accordingly.



- Sept. 19, 1730. **Summons in Arbitration Proceedings.** Sheriff  
1p. No. 30<sup>206</sup>. Dargaray reminds Mr. Estienne DuBuisson  
See 30<sup>1471</sup>, of the ruling which constrained him to prompt  
30<sup>1753</sup>, 30<sup>207</sup>. accounting in the suit urged by Trenaunnay de  
Chanfret, and under advisement with Messrs.  
Massy and Roquet.
- Sept. 19, 1730. **Summons in Arbitration Proceedings.** Sheriff  
1p. No. 30<sup>207</sup>. Dargaray notifies Mr. Estienne DuBuisson to  
See 30<sup>206</sup>, receive, in 24 hours, the account of Mr. Tre-  
30<sup>09</sup>. naunnay de Chanfret, as now forward in the  
arbitration business between the parties Mr.  
DuB. is expected to furnish marginal comments  
that will facilitate final decision.
- Sept. 21, 1730. **Reiterated Summons to Submit Memorandum.**  
1p. No. 30<sup>208</sup>. Repeating the tenor of notice already served.  
See 30<sup>205</sup>.
- Sept. 21, 1730. **Summons to Receive Account.** Repeating tenor  
1p. No. 30<sup>209</sup>. of the notice already served in given suit.  
See 30<sup>207</sup>, 30<sup>210</sup>.
- Sept. 21, 1730. **Answers to Summons on Accounts.** Mr. Es-  
1p. tienne DuBuisson urges that he has never been  
No. 30<sup>210</sup>. averse to furnish marginal comments as desired;  
only he must first have access to complete papers  
in the case. Otherwise, he protests in advance  
See 30<sup>209</sup>. against aught in prejudice to this proviso.
- Sept. 23, 1730. **Memorial in Estate Affair.** LaBoullaye reminds  
1p. the Councillors that the pressure of other  
No. 30<sup>211</sup>. business has prevented them from following up  
his request of a year ago, in relation to the  
estate of late La Tour Pouyadon. Let the mat-  
ter be pushed.  
See 29<sup>184</sup>. Approved, and notice served to Mr. Rossard,  
30<sup>222</sup>. attorney for vacant estates.
- Sept. 27, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Antoine Patin alias Belleair,  
1p. No. 30<sup>212</sup>. sometime carpenter on DuBuisson grant,  
claims a salary account of 900 francs in French  
specie and a further sum of 556 francs net.  
See 30<sup>2151</sup>, Action allowed.  
30<sup>265</sup>, 30<sup>25</sup>. Duplicated.
- Sept. 28, 1730. **Petition Towards Clearing a Set of Muddled**  
1p. **Transactions.** Guillaume Blanchard issued  
No. 30<sup>213</sup>. two drafts, 250 francs each, to Sieur Bunel, in  
local currency. Parties at the other end (in  
See 30<sup>2153</sup>. France), paid only 83 $\frac{1}{2}$  francs each on the pre-  
text that such was the equivalent of Colonial  
funds in French money. Later G. B. accom-  
modated Bunel with another draft, 100 crowns,

but neglected to require B.'s note. In order to secure himself contingently at least, G. B. moves that Bunel be cited to produce two letters which are supposed explain the business from French standpoint.

Action allowed.

Sept. 28, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Laurent Cheverly claims  
1p. No. 30<sup>214</sup>. items 303 francs and 15 francs from Mr. Renaut  
See 30<sup>223</sup>3. Dauterive, due on two notes.

Action allowed.

Sept. 28, 1730. **Decisions in Civil Suits.**

- 1p. No. 30<sup>215</sup>
1. Antoine Patin *vs.* DuBuisson. A. P. non-suited.
  - See 30<sup>212</sup>, 2. Marsilly *vs.* Marin. Referred to Mr. Rossard.
  - 30<sup>213</sup>. 3. Blanchard *vs.* Bunel. For Blanchard; Bunel
  - 30<sup>217</sup>. in default.

Sept. 30, 1730. **Letter of Terresse de Ternan to Rossard. Fort**  
3pp. **Chartres.** No doubt R. has received 36 hams  
No. 30<sup>216</sup>. consigned for him to Mr. Coulange. Send  
nothing up to writer at present, as he counts on  
See 30<sup>106</sup>, visiting the "capital." References to personal  
31<sup>38</sup>. dissensions; it would appear that the writer  
is punished, for one score, because he was on  
good terms with late Councillor Delachaise.  
Faded.

Sept. 30, 1730. **Remonstrance Filed.** Mr. Bunel enters opposi-  
1p. No. 30<sup>217</sup>. tion to ruling against himself in default. He  
See 30<sup>215</sup>3, will plead his defence on Saturday next.  
30<sup>223</sup>2. Notice served to Guillaume Blanchard.

Sept. 30, 1730. **Inventory of Personal Property.** Goods belonging  
2pp. to late Charles Gontier, Company's employe.  
No. 30<sup>218</sup>. Chiefly sundries of clothing, and also the con-  
tents of a package to his address in Company's  
See 30<sup>220</sup>. warehouse, November 16, 1730.  
Stained and worn.

Oct. 3, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Jean Buttet, attorney for  
1p. estate of his late uncle Captain Béranger of  
No. 30<sup>219</sup>. Company's service, claims 248 francs in specie  
from Sieur Balcour.  
See 30<sup>223</sup>1. Draft affair.  
Action allowed.

Oct. 4, 1730. **Sale of Gontier's Goods.** Personal belongings  
3pp. yielded 551½ francs; package, sold on Novem-  
No. 30<sup>220</sup>. ber 16, 211 francs.  
Total proceeds, 762½ francs.  
See 30<sup>218</sup>. Stained and torn.



- Oct. 7, 1730. **Petition to Obtain Slave.** Jean Francois Pasquier  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>221</sup>. paid for a certain negro belonging formerly to  
Sieur Ducodere, deceased, and recently brought  
back by the Chactas.  
See 30<sup>226</sup>1. Let the negro be delivered to J. F. P.  
Referred by Brusle to Mr. Rossard, attorney  
for vacant estates.  
Attorney General orders negro sold and Pas-  
quier shall be paid 700 francs from the proceeds.
- Oct. 7, 1730. **Memorandum on Contested Slave.** La Boullaye  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>222</sup>. rehearses the burden of his bad bargain in the  
commodity of that lazy slave allotted to him  
in May, 1728. He pleads official obstruction in  
excuse of his tardy demand in recovery. The  
slave was imported by ship Duc de Noailles,  
whose cargo was distributed in March, 1728.  
No note by Court.
- Oct. 7, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>223</sup>.  
See 30<sup>219</sup>,  
30<sup>217</sup>,  
30<sup>214</sup>,  
30<sup>222</sup>.  
1. Jean Buttet *vs.* Paul Balcour. For J. B.  
2. Blanchard *vs.* Bunel. Opposition allowed;  
case pends word from France.  
3. Cheverly *vs.* Renaud. Partly pending (pas-  
sage torn). Thus far for C. Costs reserved.  
4. La Boullaye *vs.* Rossard. Contingent on  
proof by La B.  
Perier, Bruslé, D'Auseville, Macmahon.  
Charred.
- Oct. 11, 1730. **Summons to Settle Public Accounts.** On mo-  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>224</sup>. tion of the Attorney General, who shows that  
the late Mr. Duval, Head Cashier of the Com-  
pany, left certain large debts to the Company,  
Sheriff Dargaray summons Dame Charlotte  
Bossua, widow of Mr. Duval, and now married  
to Captain Renaut D'Hauterive, likewise in-  
cluded in the summons: to appear for settlement  
of said debts. To-wit: 127101 francs in cur-  
rent funds, and in Spanish money, 120 piastres,  
3½ reals.  
Three copies, with variation in formal notice.
- Oct. 13, 1730. **Acknowledgment of Debt.** Madame veuve Jarry  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>225</sup>. owes François Antoine Joseph de La Louche de  
Beaulieu the sum of 1300 francs for a lot of  
claret (3 casks) and brandy (121½ jugs), payable  
in six months, mortgage security.  
Signed: Dargaray, De La Louche, Rossard,  
notary, Droy.  
Madame did not sign, "not knowing to write."

Oct. 14, 1730.

1p.

No. 30<sup>226</sup>.See 30<sup>221</sup>,30<sup>224</sup>.30<sup>224</sup>.**Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1. Pasquier *vs.* Rossard. Modified ruling with reference to Attorney General's decision. Slave shall be sold, and P. "lined up" with other creditors. Company's rights respected. Costs reserved.
2. Attorney General *vs.* Madame veuve Duval. Respite of one month to Madame.
3. Attorney General *vs.* D'Hauterive. Pending.

Oct. 16, 1730.

1p. No. 30<sup>227</sup>.

**Petition of Recovery.** Councillor D'Auseville claims 916 francs from Henry Buquoy, due on a slave.

Action allowed.

Oct. 18, 1730.

3pp.

No. 30<sup>228</sup>.See 30<sup>126</sup>,30<sup>236</sup>.**Complaint for Defective Contract.**

Councillor D'Auseville reports various omissions and modifications from terms of agreement, against builder Michel Vien. Among other faults the house is only about a foot and half above ground level, instead of 4 to 5 feet. Neither was the work done in time stipulated. Vien and his partner were fed over and above the bargain and also received a bonus of wine. Let V. be cited to make due alterations, and let him be sentenced to 500 francs by way of damage for delay.

Action allowed.

Oct. 19, 1730.

Slip.

No. 30<sup>229</sup>.

**Slave Trade.** De Lionois certifies that he has traded with Mr. de Coustillas a negro of no use to De L. by reason of marooning habit, for another negro, satisfactory to DeL.

See 30<sup>257</sup>.

Witnessed by Sergeant De Rouen and Dlle. Dupard.

Oct. 19, 1730.

1p.

No. 30<sup>230</sup>.

**Exception Filed.** As officer in the Council of Administration (de Régie), Mr. Raymond Amyault D'Auseville enters his opposition to the ruling which sentenced Jacques Carriere de Maloze to pay 3000 francs to Demoiselle Millon. This objection is based on the principal: "Company first." Council ought not to divert funds of those who owe the Company to alien purposes whatsoever. He thus objects until Company decides differently. Majority forced him to sign ruling at issue. Notice served to Demoiselle Millon.

See 30<sup>245</sup>,30<sup>202</sup>.30<sup>231</sup>.



- Oct. 24, 1730. **Petition in Remonstrance.** A certain cold irony of time and obliteration pales the exalted virtue of this document as a withering indictment of Demoiselle Millon's deceitful arts; her horrible trickery of the Superior Council's innocent simplicity, her fateful corruption of right procedure into acts of blindest imbecility. Reverse the misguided ruling; glorify the petitioner's impeccable social sanctity; shift costs on hussy Millon.  
8pp.  
No. 30<sup>231</sup>.  
See 30<sup>230</sup>,  
30<sup>245</sup>.  
Notice served to Demoiselle Millon for new hearing.
- Oct. 24, 1730. **Petition for New Arbitrator.** Joseph Chauvin Delery reports a hitch in the arbitration proceedings over his imperfect sawmill. Mr. Broutin, named on D.'s side, withdrew on the plea that being debtor to J. C. D., he could not serve impartially. Mr. D. would substitute Mr. Gonichon: let Blanpin be cited in consultation. (B.'s viewer is Mr. Le Bac.)  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>232</sup>.  
See 30<sup>170</sup> and references.  
Notice served to Blanpin.
- Oct. 24, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Jean De La Bouchardière claims 37 francs and 15 sous from Durivage.  
1p. No. 30<sup>233</sup>.  
See 30<sup>244</sup>.  
Action allowed.
- Oct. 31, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Jean Buttet claims 402 francs from Sieur de Marcilly, due on his note of July 12, 1730, payable on demand.  
1p. No. 30<sup>234</sup>.  
Action allowed.
- Nov. 2, 1730. **Memorandum of Deposit.** List of articles left by Monsieur de Beaulieu in Mr. Rossard's keeping until owner's return from Natchez war. Items of clothing, earthenware, olive oil, shaving and kitchen utensils, chairs and a trunk.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>235</sup>.  
See 31.
- Nov. 4, 1730. **D'Auseville vs. Vien.** Arbitration ordered. Coupart will inspect for plaintiff; Du Jauge for defendant.  
1p. No. 30<sup>236</sup>.  
See 30<sup>228</sup>, 30<sup>239</sup>.
- Nov. 7, 1730. **Petition in Slave Suit.** Surgeon Antoine Meuillion bought of Aufrère a negro who proves to be epileptic, though represented to be free from disatilities. Let Aufrère be cited to pay 1000 francs, or else furnish another negro.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>237</sup>.  
See 30<sup>2482</sup>.  
Action allowed.
- Nov. 13, 1730. **Memorandum of Shingling Account.** Work done by Rasteau, Master shingler, for Mr. Marisily, on his house in Chartres Street.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>238</sup>.

Total reckoning (in complex detail), 78 francs.  
Received on account, April 8, 1731, 50 francs.  
Edges worn.

- Nov. 14, 1730. **Summons in Arbitration Suit.** At the instance of Councillor D'Auseville, Sheriff Dargaray notifies Mr. Michel Vien to appear with his expert on Mr. D'A.'s plantation on Friday next, to meet Mr. D'A. and his expert.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>239</sup>.  
See 30<sup>236</sup>,  
30<sup>249</sup>.
- Nov 14, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Louis Giscard claims 142½ francs from Durivage, contractor, due on a transferred note.  
1p. No. 30<sup>240</sup>.  
See 30<sup>248</sup>1.  
Action allowed.
- Nov. 16, 1730. **Certificate on Levee Work.** Mr. Broutin attests that on the eight instant Mr. Fillart effected the construction of four acres of levee along the River and on the land formerly granted to Nicolas Noiset alias Labee, between Messrs. Fillard and Cheval. Said N. N. had abandoned the tract in question three years ago; there was neither levee nor road thereon, and it was overrun with brushwood. A small ruined cabin the only building.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>241</sup>.  
See 30<sup>242</sup>.
- Nov. 17, 1730. **Petition to Occupy Improved Land.** In virtue of his work on the land abandoned by Noiset, Pierre Fillart claims possession.  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>242</sup>.  
See 30<sup>241</sup>,  
311.  
Action allowed and notice served to Noiset to attend hearing.  
Petition in vile dirty ink.
- Nov. 18, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Jean Dumas alias Beausejour claims a residue debt of 36 francs from Cariton, tailor, together with a loose remnant of 8 francs on another account.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>243</sup>.  
See 30<sup>259</sup>4.  
Action allowed.
- Nov. 18, 1730. **Petition in Remonstrance.** Durivage was prevented from attending the hearing between J. B. de La Bouchardière and himself, nor is D. aware that he owed La B., having never dealt with him. Let La B. be cited.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>244</sup>.  
See 30<sup>233</sup>.  
30<sup>264</sup>5.  
Approved, and notice served.
- Nov. 18, 1730. **Remonstrance Overruled.** Attorney General Fleuriau rebukes Councillor D'Auseville's irrelevant reaction touching a Court sentence. There was no question of displacing the Company's priority right; Councillor D'A.'s opposition is an "enormous" impeachment of a higher Court. It would reduce the Council's action to the level  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>245</sup>.  
See 30<sup>230</sup>,  
30<sup>231</sup>,  
30<sup>246</sup>.



of vain carping if separate members were allowed to depreciate a formal ruling by parade of their personal exceptions out of Court, simply to gratify the social pride of an aggrieved pleader. Absurd to say, majority forced Mr. D'A. to sign. Let him be heard, yea or nay, and nonsuited in his "opposition."

Nov. 18, 1730. **Remonstrance Rejected.** Attorney General Fleuriu construes that the sublime impudence in Carrière parties' remonstrance was not of their own calibre, since it exceeds alike their compass and understanding. It nevertheless merits punishment, and he would have Jacques arrested and Dame C. summoned for examination. Councillor D'A. moves for a revision of judgment in case of opposed ruling. Councillor Macmahon, Baron, Prat, are against revision; ditto Bruslé in effect, as he moves for full execution of ruling. Macmahon seconds Attorney General for arrest of J. Carrière; ditto Baron. Prat and Bruslé call for summons. but not arrest. D'A. protests at threatening personality by Macmahon towards D'A. Summons ordered.

Opposition nonsuited.

Nov. 18, 1730. **Court Order.** Nonsuiteding Sieur Malozé and femme Carriere in their opposition, and summoning them to appear before Councillor Prat for hearing in regard to the abusive terms of their opposition.

Nov. 18, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
 1p. No. 30<sup>248</sup>.  
 See 30<sup>246</sup>,  
 30<sup>261</sup>.

1. Louis Giscard *vs.* Durivage. L. G. nonsuited.
2. Antoine Meuillion *vs.* Aufrere. A. M. nonsuited.
3. Dubreuil *vs.* Prat. D. to pay claim of 450 francs.

Nov. 19, 1730.  
 2pp.  
 No. 30<sup>249</sup>.

**Report in Arbitration Proceedings.** Jean Coupart, viewer for Councillor D'Auseville, waited for Michel Vien's viewer till nightfall, and now submits an independant pronouncement. He finds various positive departures from the contract in respect to dimensions and spacing, and reduced number of windows. Otherwise, the quality of construction is good; the house is very solid, well built, capacity joined.

See 30<sup>239</sup>.  
 30<sup>250</sup>.

+ Mark of Jean Coupart. Witnessed by  
Dain, Herpin.  
Ragged edges.

Nov. 20, 1730.  
1p. No. 30<sup>250</sup>.

See 30<sup>249</sup>,  
30<sup>266</sup>.

**Report in Arbitration Proceedings.** Mr. Vien's  
viewer La Jauge submits his findings in regard  
to the house in question, and agrees generally  
with variant enumeration of details. Plan was  
not carried out to the letter, but the construction  
is sound.

Signed: La Jauge.

Nov. 20, 1730.  
1p. No. 30<sup>251</sup>.

See 30<sup>259</sup>2.

**Petition of Recovery.** Guillaume Robe alias La  
Croix, soldier, claims 45 francs from the estate  
of Maturin Le Bray.

Notice served to Mr Rossard, attorney.

Nov. 21, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>252</sup>.

See 30<sup>259</sup>1.

**Petition of Recovery.** Jean Nantier complains  
that Mr. de Coustillas has appropriated a strip  
of the petitioner's land without right or title.  
Either let him show title or let petitioner be re-  
instated in rightful possession.

Action allowed.

Edges mutilated.

Nov. 21, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>253</sup>.

See 27<sup>12</sup>,  
30<sup>256</sup>.

**Petition for Adjusted Account.** Free negro Jean  
Mingo refers to his agreement with Sieur Darby,  
Nov. 28, 1727, whereby Jean should marry  
Thérèse and buy her freedom for 1500 francs.  
Marriage ensued, but Mr. Darby "makes diffi-  
culties" (of a haggling skinflint) on the score  
of allowing for supplies furnished by Jean,  
and some building operations that should be  
credited in settlement. Jean offers reasonable  
concessions in the way of their further account-  
ing.

Action allowed.

Duplicated.

Nov. 22, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>254</sup>.

See 30<sup>186</sup>,  
30<sup>262</sup>,  
30<sup>264</sup>.

**Petition in Recovery.** Humbly beseeches (rather  
brazenly nags) Jacques Roy, formerly steward  
for Mr. D'Auseville, whining that Mr. D'A.  
will not fulfil a certain building agreement be-  
tween them, by which J. R. was to roof a  
house for Mr. D'A. J. R. adds other whines,  
and would also recover a sow which belonged to  
himself.

Action allowed.

Nov. 25, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>255</sup>.

**Petition of Recovery.** Macmahon, attorney for  
Mr. De La Loe of Paris, moves to collect 220  
francs from Delachaise estate, due on some  
wig supplies.

Action allowed.



Nov. 25, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Darby describes his generous treatment of Jean Mingo, and finds Darby the meritorious loser. He is surprised to be sued in the course of his correct and conscientious dealings. Jean speaking English, and not French; maybe the trouble is owing to a malevolent and incompetent interpreter, who would seek to deprive Darby of Thérèse's service?

2pp.  
No. 30<sup>256</sup>.

See 30<sup>253</sup>,  
30<sup>258</sup>.

No note by Court.

Nov. 25, 1730. **Petition to Ratify Slave Deal.** Mr. DeCoustillas (rare paradox in a world of polygonal contentions), reported himself satisfied with exchange in slaves between DeC. and Linois. Council will please to confirm the same.

1p.  
No. 30<sup>257</sup>.

See 30<sup>229</sup>.

No note by Court.

Nov. 25, 1730. **Decision Between Mingo and Darby.** Thérèse shall be restored to Jean Mingo, her husband; but Darby stays entitled to payment. Costs divided.

No. 30<sup>258</sup>.

(Court forbears to interfere with knotty disputes on particulars of accounting.)

Interpreter was Blanpin.

Nov. 25, 1730. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1p. No. 30<sup>259</sup>.

1. Jean Nantier *vs.* DeCoustillas. Plea discharged. Costs divided.

2. Guillaume Robe *vs.* Rossard. Plaintiff nonsuited. (Passage torn.)

See 30<sup>252</sup>.

3. Same as 30<sup>258</sup>.

30<sup>251</sup>,

4. Dumas *vs.* Cariton. Claim allowed.

30<sup>243</sup>.

Torn.

Nov. 27, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Councillor Prat lent such and such sums to Joseph Charis (also written Charey and Charney), to be paid from plantation produce, which passed, however, through other hands. Let the debtor (P.'s tenant) be cited to pay aggregate claim, 9877 francs.

1p.  
No. 30<sup>260</sup>.

See 30<sup>2643</sup>.

Action allowed.

Nov. 29, 1730. **Summons to Attend Hearing.** Sheriff Dargaray notifies Jacques Carrière Malozé and Dame Françoise Jallote, wife of François Carrière, to appear before Councillor Prat, a week hence, for examination. In default, arrest impends.

1p.  
No. 30<sup>261</sup>.

See 30<sup>247</sup>, 30<sup>268</sup>.

Dec. 1, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Councillor D'Auseville reviews one by one the demands of his tenant Roy (whose lease is to expire on Dec. 31), and riddles them with every appearance of reasonable

8pp.  
No. 30<sup>262</sup>.

See 30<sup>254</sup>,  
30<sup>264</sup>,  
31<sup>6</sup>.

warrant. The roofing plea was obtruded by Roy in collusion with Vien, and must wait till Vien affair be settled. Roy's plantation claims dodge the counter charges already pending against his brutality (even yet persistent) and wastefulness. Accurate accounting is in process, but cannot be forestalled by premature assumptions on Roy's part. Nonsuit Roy and hold him to terms of satisfaction point for point.

Approved for action.  
Prat.

Dec. 2, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>263</sup>.

**Petition to Obtain Official Fees.** Arnaud Bonnaud, director of land grants of Messrs. Dasfeld, De Belle Isle and other parties, reports that certain appointed viewers, Messrs Richard and Guer, have completed their work at Terre Blanche, aux Natchez, and would receive their fees.

Attorney General orders rate of 7 francs a day, for each viewer.

See 30<sup>264</sup>1.

Dec. 2, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>264</sup>.  
See 30<sup>263</sup>.

**Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1. Bonnaud for Gache and Ricard. B. shall pay fees at rate of seven francs a day. He may collect from grant. (Name Guer occurs, not Gache, in original petition.)
2. Attorney General *vs.* Renaud D'Hauterive. Adjourned.
3. Prat *vs.* Joseph Charnet. Claim allowed.
4. Roy *vs.* D'Auseville. Shingling must wait until other matters be set clear. R. nonsuited in plantation claims (rice and sow).
5. Durivage *vs.* De La Bouchardière. D. nonsuited.  
Torn.

30<sup>260</sup>.  
30<sup>254</sup>,  
30<sup>262</sup>.

30<sup>244</sup>.

Dec. 5, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>265</sup>.  
See 30<sup>212</sup>, 30<sup>267</sup>,  
31<sup>232</sup>, 31<sup>25</sup>.

**Petition of Recovery.** Rene Galbée, attorney for Antoine Patin alias Bellaire, carpenter, claims 900 francs in Colonial funds for arrears of salary, from Sieur Trenaunnay representing Le Buisson grant.

Action allowed.

Dec. 5, 1730.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>266</sup>.

**Summons in Arbitration Proceedings.** Sheriff Dargaray notifies Sieur Vien to appear on Saturday next, for noting the ratification of the viewers' report on the house in question. Mr. Vien is to make the specified changes, called for by the original contract; or else Mr. D'Auseville may employ carpenters to make them at Vien's expense.

See 30, <sup>250</sup>.



- Dec. 6, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Mr. Trenaunnay Chanfret, sometime director of Le Buisson grant, is surprised to be deemed responsible for accounts not of his contracting. Mr. DuBuisson is the responsible party, and cannot shift his obligations on Mr. T. C.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>267</sup>.  
See 30<sup>265</sup>.  
No note by Court.
- Dec. 7, 1730. **Hearing for Contempt of Court.** Examination of Jacques Carrière de Malozé with reference to some abusive terms in the Carrière plea of opposition. He sought merely to justify his cause, and was not intending to insult the Councillors. His messenger for delivering letters was a little negro belonging to Mr. Chaperon.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>268</sup>.  
See 30<sup>261</sup>,  
30<sup>269</sup>.
- Dec. 7, 1730. **Hearing for Contempt of Court.** Examination of Dame Françoise Jallot, wife of François Carrière. She disclaims intended offence to the judges in Council. Does not know the author of the plea in contention.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>269</sup>.  
See 30<sup>268</sup>.
- Dec. 9, 1730. **Attachment of Goods.** At the instance of Surgeon de Sanson, then at N. O., domiciled with Mr. Aufrere, Sheriff Dargaray serves an attachment writ on Chevalier Diron Dartaguiette, commanding at Fort Conde, and then on the land-grant at Cannes Brulees. The consequent seizure comprised a lot of rice, corn and sweet potatoes, which were intrusted to Louis Belcour as custodian. Further notice served on Chevalier Diron Dartaguiette, in regard to delivering the goods to surgeon, and of Court session on Saturday next.  
2pp.  
No. 30<sup>270</sup>.  
See 30<sup>271</sup>.
- Dec. 10, 1730. **Remonstrance.** Chevalier Diron, King's Lieutenant at Mobile, shows that he left Mobile on past November 27, and reached N. O. on December 4, for the sake of removing his slaves, grain and other property from the land grant at Cannes Brulees. He means to stay at N. O. pending settlement of the irksome litigation moved against himself by Surgeon Sanson; on whom he would draw for all incidental damages, costs and losses.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>271</sup>.  
See 30<sup>270</sup>.
- Dec. 20, 1730. **Petition Over Disputed Line.** Mr. Rossard seeks action of restraint on one LeMoyne, whose inflammable shanty is supposed to trespass on R.'s ground, making added nuisance of overflowing rain water.  
3pp.  
No. 30<sup>274</sup>.  
See 31<sup>4</sup>.  
Referred to Mr. Broutin, who reports that there is no encroachment on R.'s ground, save

by projecting roof of the objectionable shanty. But the mud and woodwork chimney is dangerous, and should be replaced by an approved brick chimney. The roof should be receded, and a spout installed. But anyhow the shanty is rotting and worthless.

Notice served on LeMoynes.

Dec. 22, 1730. **Court Order for Goods.** Mr. Pellerin, storekeeper, will deliver to Carouer, Company carpenter, three ells of slave cloth and 50 lbs of nails; and charge to the account of Natchez war.  
Slip.  
No. 30<sup>273</sup>.  
D'Auseville.

Dec. 22, 1730. **Receipt.** Arbaud has received 600 francs from Mr. Marseilly on account of his debt to the Company.  
Slip.  
No. 30<sup>274</sup>.  
"The foregoing receipt has been left in the general office at New Orleans."  
Prevost.  
Witnessed by Chartane and Bruslé.

Dec. 26, 1730. **Petition of Recovery.** Mr. Rossard claims 92 francs from St. Germain, for two specified accounts.  
1p.  
No. 30<sup>275</sup>.  
Action allowed.

Jan. 4, 1731. **Petition to Prepare Inventory.** Mr. Rossard has learned that Mr. de Beaulieu, who had gone with a military force to Natchez, has been killed by the savages. Let Mr. R. open a trunk deposited in recorder's office by the deceased, and arrange for settlement of his estate accounts.  
1p.  
No. 31.  
See 30<sup>285</sup>.  
Approved: Prat.

Jan. 5, 1731. **Petition in Remonstrance.** Nicolas Noiset alias Labt  denies, with ample support so far as his own story counts, that he abandoned the land claimed by Fillart. Let viewer be authorized to report on this issue.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>1</sup>.  
See 30<sup>242</sup>.  
No note by Court.  
Torn.

Jan. 5, 1731. **Inventory of Beaulieu Goods.** Besides personal effects, there was a portfolio containing business papers, duly described in detail.  
4pp. No. 31<sup>2</sup>.  
See 31<sup>3</sup>.

Jan. 8, 1731. **Sale of Goods Movable.** Property of the late Fran ois Antoine Joseph de la Touche de Beaulieu, Esquire, who was killed by Natchez Indians.  
3pp.  
No. 30<sup>3</sup>.

See 30<sup>2</sup>.  
Proceeds, 1199 francs and 5 sous, left in Court for further disposal.



- Jan. 12, 1731. **Court Summons.** Sheriff Vincent notifies Le Moine of the hearing between Mr. Rossard and himself, appointed for morrow: word left with Madame LeMoine.  
Slip. No. 31<sup>4</sup>.  
See 30<sup>272</sup>, 31<sup>5</sup>.
- Jan. 13, 1731. **Remonstrance.** The wife of LeMoine pleads in the absence of her husband, whom she could not notify in time, that their house is not on Mr. Rossard's land whereas if compelled to build a brick chimney, she could not provide for her two children and an expected third child. Let Mr. Broutin or others also ascertain whether the overflow of Le Moine's rain water really damages Mr. R.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>5</sup>.  
No note by Court.
- Jan. 16, 1731. **Court Summons.** Sheriff Dargaray notifies Jacques Charpentier alias Le Roy, to appear tomorrow at 2 P. M. before Councillor Prat for examination in the suit moved by Councillor D'Auseville.  
1p. No. 31<sup>6</sup>.  
See 30<sup>262</sup>.
- Jan. 17, 1731. **Seals Placed.** First Councillor Macmahon, accompanied by Mr. Rossard, seals goods left by late Port Captain Duchesne. Property intrusted to Marguerite Roucet, housekeeper.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>7</sup>.  
See 31<sup>10</sup>, 31<sup>34</sup>.  
Worn and stained.
- Jan. 22, 1731. **Petition for Execution of Contract.** Nicolas Blois, cooper for the Company, moves to have the joiner Nantier held to fulfil an agreement which he made with N. B., for making six walnut tables, turned on lathe. Wood was furnished and payment partly advanced.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>8</sup>.  
Action allowed.  
Document the worse for wear.
- Jan. 22, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Etienne Tabarit claims 67 francs from Sieur Vendosme, due on a transferred note. V. has married the widow of late Poulin of Natchez, who issued the note.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>9</sup>.  
Action allowed.
- Jan. 24, 1731. **Petition for Removal of Seals.** Mr. Rossard, attorney for vacant estates, wishes to settle the affairs of deceased Port Captain Duchesne, and asks leave to get access to the goods in question.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>10</sup>.  
See 31<sup>7</sup>, 31<sup>12</sup>.  
Approved: Mr. Prat may unseal the same in presence of Attorney General Macmahon.
- Jan. 24, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Mr. Voysin claims 15000 clapboards of Mr. Dubreuil, as contracted by his note of February 18, 1729.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>11</sup>.  
Action allowed.

- Jan. 26, 1731. **Inventory of Duchesne Goods.** Miscellany of  
6pp. No. 31<sup>12</sup>. clothing, utensils and tools, and a long list of  
See 31<sup>10</sup>, 31<sup>13</sup>. mercantile paper.
- Jan. 31, 1731. **Sale of Duchesne Goods.** Proceeds, 712 francs,  
3pp. No. 31<sup>13</sup>. left with Attorney for Vacant estates.  
See 31<sup>12</sup>.
- Jan. 31, 1731. **Memorandum of Ironwork Supplies.** Articles  
2pp. furnished by La Roche, master smith, for Officer  
No. 31<sup>14</sup>. La Boulaye.  
Total account, 145 francs.  
Receipted in final and full discharge, Nov. 13,  
1731, by L. Castel to Mr. Trudo, guardian of  
late La Boulaye's minor children.
- After **Petition in Breach of Promise Suit.** Demoiselle  
Feb. 9, 1731. Coerentine Milon refers to a ruling dated Feb.  
1p. 9, 1731, in which it appears that only an insigni-  
No. 31<sup>15</sup>. ficant list of movables came to light on Carrière's  
See 30<sup>201</sup>. plantation. She calls for exhibition of his  
goods prior to the suit, and would have satis-  
faction in regard to the award allowed her  
(3000 francs). She further asks for an account  
of what he owes the Company.  
No note by Court.
- Feb. 14, 1731. **Petition in Slave Deal.** Guillaume Bousquered  
1p. alias Sansfacon sold to late Sieur Soubaignie  
No. 31<sup>16</sup>. "the quantity of three negroes," only two being  
delivered, for 1000 francs each, payable in  
tobacco at the rate of 6 sous a lb.; and if not  
See 31<sup>17</sup>, paid by October 15, 1729, Soubaignie was to  
31<sup>231</sup>. pay hire for each negro at the rate of 300 francs  
a year. Let Nicolas Rousseau, guardian of  
Soubaignie minors, be cited to pay 2000 francs  
in tobacco, or else return the two negroes, and  
pay the hire agreed.  
Action allowed.  
Very dirty ink.
- Feb. 14, 1731. **Petition in Slave Deal.** Nicolas Rousseau, guard-  
1p. ian of Soubaignie minors, moves for the citation  
No. 31<sup>17</sup>. of Sieur Vendosme, spouse of widow Poulain,  
See 31<sup>16</sup>, 31<sup>18</sup>, with whom Soubaignie had exchanged a negro.  
31<sup>19</sup>, 31<sup>233</sup>. Vendosme is also known as Nicolas Pieron.  
Action allowed.  
Still dirtier ink, except official entry by  
D'Auseville.



Feb. 14, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Nicolas Rousseau, guardian of Soubaignie minors, sold a bill of goods for 1000 francs to the late Camberlan, settler at Natchez. Let Camberlan's widow and her husband St. Pierre be cited in satisfaction.

Action allowed in valid ink; rest of the document should forfeit notice for 'dirty makeshift in place of ink.

Feb. 16, 1731. **Petition in Remonstrance.** Nicolas Pieron guardian of the minor children of late Gabriele Poulin and his wife Magdelaine L'Evesque, who is now the wife of N. P., has the honor (to muddle his own brain and the understanding of others in order) to report loss of papers bearing on the slave deal for which Nicolas Rousseau sues him. Papers perished in the Natchez massacre. Disputed negro is now among the Chaquetas; had he stayed with his first master, maybe vale negro! to escape litigation, N. P. proposes to renounce his marriage rights of joint possession in Poulin estate. Let Rousseau be nonsuited.

No note by Court.

Feb. 16, 1731. **Renunciation of Marriage Rights.** Nicolas Pieron and his wife Magdelaine Levesque, widow of late Gabriel Poullain, settler at Natchez, visit the Court on behalf of Magdelaine's renouncing her marriage portion as held in common with Poullain; the same portion being more of a burden than advantage to her.

Signed: Nicolas Pieron, *Magdeleine Leves.*

Rossard, recorder.

Communicated to Nicolas Rousseau.

Feb. 17, 1731. **Copy of Petition to Recover Estate Goods.** Officer Duvergé, attorney for the widow and minor children of the late Sieur Sivié, steward of late Lieutenant General de la Tour, moves to obtain the estate goods from Mr. Rossard, attorney for vacant estates.

Approved, and notice served.

Soiled and faded.

Feb. 17, 1731. **Petition to Recover Inventories.** François Du-Buisson Montferrier cannot furnish the accounts required of him in suit with Mr. Tre-naunnay until he consults four stated inventories withheld by Mr. T. Supply them at once.

Action allowed.

- Feb. 17, 1731. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
 1p. No. 31<sup>23</sup>.  
 See 31<sup>16</sup>, 30<sup>265</sup>,  
 31<sup>17</sup>, 31<sup>35</sup>.  
 1. Guillaume Bousquerat *vs.* Rousseau. Further pending.  
 2. René Galbée *vs.* Trenaunnay. Further pending.  
 3. Rousseau *vs.* Vendosme. Adjourned.  
 4. Rousseau *vs.* Pierre Masson. R. non uited.
- Feb. 20, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Joseph Lassuard de Marsilly claims a rent account, five months @ 25 francs, from Duchne's estate.  
 1p. No. 31<sup>24</sup>.  
 See 31<sup>284</sup>.  
 Notice served to Mr. Rossard, attorney.  
 Duplicated.
- Feb. 20, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Antoine Patin alias Bellaire, protests lack of time to continue appearing in Court, but would have Messrs. Trenaunnay and La Garde cited to pay 656 francs in local funds, and 900 francs in French specie, due on his salary account as closed on Jan. 3, 1730.  
 1p. No. 31<sup>25</sup>.  
 See 30<sup>212</sup>, 30<sup>265</sup>,  
 31<sup>283</sup>.  
 Action allowed, and notice served to La Garde.
- Feb. 21, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Louis Benoit alias Venetien (and signed L. Benoti dit Giscard) claims 348 francs of one François Vitrequin, due on a draft.  
 1p. No. 31<sup>26</sup>.  
 Action allowed.
- Feb. 21, 1731. **Remonstrance.** The Sieur Trenaunnay (artless dove in the toils of an artful dodger), is much surprised to be cited by Mr. DuBuisson to supply certain inventories. Mr. T. based those alleged erroneous accounts on Mr. DuB.'s day book and ledger, which were returned to him in August, 1730. This gave him time for corrections if needed, or he may still propose them; but Mr. T. will not relax his own referendum (the said inventories), and thereby open the way to new accounting by DuB. Nonsuit him, please, and subject him to costs.  
 1p. No. 31<sup>27</sup>.  
 See 31<sup>22</sup>,  
 31<sup>29</sup>.  
 No note by Court.
- Feb. 24, 1731. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
 1p. No. 31<sup>28</sup>.  
 See 30<sup>30</sup>,  
 31<sup>21</sup>,  
 31<sup>25</sup>,  
 31<sup>24</sup>.  
 1. Attorney-General *vs.* Heirs of Mr. Delachaise.  
 2. Duvergé *vs.* Rossard. Settlement ordered in due form.  
 3. Patin *vs.* Trenaunnay. Lagarde excluded. T. shall pay both claims as presented.  
 4. Marsilly *vs.* Rossard. Claim allowed.  
 5. Beaudois *vs.* Couillard. For B.  
 6. Romany *vs.* Couillard. For R.



- Feb 25, 1731. **Memorandum of Drugs.** Furnished by Surgeon  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>29</sup>. Jean de Reytet for "treatment of the Veneral diseases of the soldiers of the Company of the Indies; to-wit: parties Roy Belhumeur Blondain Jacob Simon Tranchemontagne Sanquartier and Carignan, by order of Messrs. De Louboye and de Cranay, from 14 October, 1730 to 25 Feb., 1731." Items include sarsaparilla; manna; guaiacum; mercury and antimony; rhubarb; a concoction of scammony and lemon juice; balm of Mecca and Copahu balm; coral; crab's eyes; lozenges of Landel.  
Addendum for Natchez garrison or for Indians.
- Feb. 26, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Councillor D'Auseville had  
2pp.  
No. 31<sup>30</sup>. leased a house for one year at 15 francs a month to Jean Cailler and Martin Meunier, masons. They have omitted payment and abandoned the house to soldiers, who have damaged the premises in specified particulars. Let Cailler and Meunier be cited to pay 180 francs for rent, and to repair the damages.  
Action allowed.  
Partly torn.
- Feb. 28, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Dreux frères claim 100  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>31</sup>. francs from estate of late Bourbant, due on a note dated 25 Jan., 1723.  
Notice served to Mr. Rossard, attorney.
- Feb. 28, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Dreux frères claim 118  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>32</sup>. francs from estate of late Mesplot, for items duly stated.  
Notice to Mr. Rossard, attorney.
- March 1, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Officer Duvergés, attorney  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>33</sup>. for widow and minor children of the late Henry Sivié, shows that H. S. sold a house and lot for 1000 francs to late Mr. Céard, payable by draft on Mr. Kolly, dated August 17, 1724, but protested. Céard assets are in hands of Mr. Rossard: let him be cited.  
Action allowed.  
Duplicated. (In dirty ink).  
Partly torn.
- March 2, 1731. **Petition to Recover Wages.** Marguerite Rousel,  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>34</sup>. wife of Henry Gapayet, served the late Port Captain Duchesne from April 7, 1726, until his death, but without contract in writing. Mr. D. died before settling, as he had intended. Let  
See 31<sup>7</sup>.

Mr. Rossard be cited to pay what the Council may order.

Action allowed.

Duplicated.

March 3, 1731. **Petition for Nonsuiting.** Nicolas Pierron shows that Rousseau, the adverse party in slave deal suit, has not met N. P.'s defence within the time provided: nonsuit Rousseau.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>85</sup>.  
See 31<sup>19</sup>,  
31<sup>233</sup>.  
No note by Court.  
Edges soiled.

March 3, 1731. **Petition to Verify Birthright.** Claude Jousset de La Loire refers to an "annexed" (but now lacking) memorial of his to the Council on May 3, 1725, in behalf of obtaining a bounty that should have been allowed him as first male child born in this Colony. Monsieur de Bienville was cognizant and favorably disposed, but legal forms were postponed. Let investigation still be allowed.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>86</sup>.  
See 31<sup>37</sup>.  
Granted.  
Perier, Bruslé, D'Auseville, Prat, Baron.  
Petitioner's parents came from Montreal and La Rochelle.

March 4, 1731. **Challenge to Contrary Witnesses if Any.** If any persons would dispute Mr. Jousset de La Loire's birthright, as first male child born in this Colony, let such report at recorder's office within a fortnight at latest.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>37</sup>.  
See 31<sup>86</sup>,  
31<sup>57</sup>.  
Fleuriau.  
Advertised by Dargaray on Church door and Council door, on March 5 (Sunday), 1731.

March 4, 1731. **Letter of Terrisse de Ternan to Rossard.** Writer is awaiting orders from "below" before starting on his proposed visit. He sends 116 hams and three boxes of tobacco; please sell the tobacco, or have it sold by retailers. There are 671 lbs. (Marginal note by Mr. Rossard shows that only 611 lbs. were found, the boxes being in very bad shape.)  
2pp.  
No. 31<sup>38</sup>.  
See 30<sup>216</sup>,  
31<sup>86</sup>.

March 5, 1731. **Petition for Despatch of Business.** Claude Trenaunnay Chanfret has exhausted his means while waiting for Mr. DuBuisson to examine C. T. C's accounts, which also await revision by Mr. La Garde, a partner of DuB. Let Mr. La Garde be cited and the business finished. Also, let Messrs. DuB. and La Garde deliver the petitioner's titles to the house which  
2pp.  
No. 31<sup>39</sup>.  
See 31<sup>27</sup>.  
31<sup>41</sup>.  
31<sup>46</sup>.



he bought of Mr. Dupuis Planchard, together with appertaining receipts.  
Action allowed.

March 5, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Jean Villard alias Lyonnois claims 80 francs of Sieur Ferrand, due on his note, and also a brood sow or equivalent.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>40</sup>.  
Action allowed.

March 6, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Claude Trenaunnay Chanfret claims payment of four mares which he exchanged with the late Mesplets for a negro.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>41</sup>.  
See 31<sup>39</sup>, 31<sup>42</sup>.  
Notice to Mr. Rossard, attorney for vacant estates.  
Duplicated.

March 6, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Claude Trenaunnay claims 373 francs and 15 sous due on a draft issued by Mr. Dumanoir on (the late) Mr. Kolly, in Dec., 1720. Reference to ruling on this matter, dated 24 Sept., 1729.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>42</sup>.  
See 29<sup>138</sup>, 29<sup>146</sup>, 31<sup>41</sup>, 31<sup>48</sup>.  
Notice to Mr. Rossard, attorney.

March 7, 1731. **Petition for Voiding Contract.** Sieur Michel contingently sold a negress in December, 1729; delivery to take effect only in the spring of 1730 and on the day when vendor should sail for France. Terms, 1200 francs payable by draft, but if M. did not sail for France, bargain should be null and void. Buyer, Mr. D'Auseville, paid 300 francs on account July, 1730, and now tries to hold M. bound to fulfil the contract, although M. has not sailed for France. Mr. D'A. cannot compel M. to start for France; neither can he exact the condition thereon expressly dependent. M. will refund the 300 francs, but insists on retracting the contract, in accord with its inherent elasticity. (On the other hand, Mr. D'A. reasoned that an accepted payment on account implied and insured fulfilment of bargain). Still again, Mr. D'A. omitted legal action in pertinent season; his case thereby falls.  
(First card)  
3pp.  
See 31<sup>43</sup>.

Logic of Contract.  
(Second card).  
Neither can he exact the condition thereon expressly dependent. M. will refund the 300 francs, but insists on retracting the contract, in accord with its inherent elasticity. (On the other hand, Mr. D'A. reasoned that an accepted payment on account implied and insured fulfilment of bargain). Still again, Mr. D'A. omitted legal action in pertinent season; his case thereby falls.  
Notice served to Mr. D'A.  
Torn.

March 9, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Surgeon Major Alexander, of the town Hospital, claims a bill of 1543 $\frac{1}{2}$  francs from Mr. Bruslé, for attendance on his family and slaves.  
1p.  
No. 31<sup>44</sup>.  
See 31<sup>48</sup>.  
Action allowed.  
Soiled and worn.

**March 9, 1731. Inventory of Property of Petit de Livilliers.**

4pp.

No. 31<sup>45</sup>.

Slaves (names given), live stock, tools and implements, lands and buildings, and 150 barrels of corn and rice rated at 5 francs a barrel. Total estimate, 34134 francs. Plantation is protected from floods by levees and ditches.

**March 10, 1731. Decisions in Civil Suits.**

1p.

No. 31<sup>46</sup>.

(Only one case is preserved intact; several others being perforated as by a small cannon ball.)

See 31<sup>39</sup>, 31<sup>483</sup>,  
31<sup>52</sup>.

Trenaunnay de Chanfret *vs.* De La Garde.

Defendant shall close accounts in a month at latest, and he shall surrender the titles in question.

**March 16, 1731. Petition for Vouchers.** Councillor D'Auseville

1p.

No. 31<sup>47</sup>.

reviews the suit moved by Sieur Michel, and if a lucid and orderly array of the opposing counts is masterful defence, the councillor makes out a respectable case for himself. But he now calls for terms of the contract, having lost his copy, and for other data in written form.

See 31<sup>43</sup>,  
31<sup>482</sup>,  
31<sup>54</sup>.

Notice served to Sieur Michel, Company's employe.

**March 17, 1731. Decisions in Sundry Suits.**

1p.

No. 31<sup>48</sup>.

1. Alexandre *vs.* Bruslé. A. nonsuited of stated demand; claim subject to revision, duly provided.

2. Michel *vs.* D'Auseville. Adjourned.

See 31<sup>44</sup>, 31<sup>47</sup>,

3. (Torn). Trenaunnay *vs.* La Garde. Further contingent?

31<sup>46</sup>, 31<sup>42</sup>,

4. Trenaunnay *vs.* Rossard. R. to pay 373 francs and 15 sous, plus 10%.

31<sup>50</sup>.

5. Antoine Millon *vs.* Marchand. Out of Court. Cost divided.

**March 21, 1731. Arbitration Accepted.** François Larchevesque,

1p.

No. 31<sup>49</sup>.

alias Grandpré, and Jacques Judice agree to abide by the decision of their approved arbitrators, Messrs. Viger and Blanpain. Contravening party bound to pay 300 francs to other party.

See 31<sup>60</sup>.

Witnessed by Martinet and Dargaray.

**March 28, 1731. Petition of Recovery.** Claude Trenaunnay Chan-

1p.

No. 31<sup>50</sup>.

See 31<sup>484</sup>, 31<sup>51</sup>.

fret repeats his plea for payment of draft in dispute, plus interest at 10%. Mr. R. construes the 10% as rate of exchange.

Action allowed.



- March 30, 1731. **Petition in Libel Suit.** Claude Trenaunnay de 2pp.  
No. 31<sup>51</sup>. Chanfret has been accused by Mr. de La Garde  
See 31<sup>50</sup>, of dishonest actions. Let the accuser be fined  
31<sup>52</sup>. 1000 francs in favor of Hospital, and make hon-  
orable amends.  
Action allowed.  
Stained.
- March 30, 1731. **Petition to Recover Titles.** Claude Trenaunnay 2pp.  
No. 31<sup>52</sup>. Chanfret reports that Mr. de La Garde has not  
See 31<sup>46</sup>. complied with Court ruling in the title dispute.  
31<sup>51</sup>. Let him do so in 24 hours, and also surrender  
an appertaining note; or else void the note.  
Action allowed.  
Stained.
- March 30, 1731. **Petition to Recover Slave.** Jean Baptiste Lazuyer 1p.  
No. 31<sup>53</sup>. alias Beaupré bought a negro at auction for  
1000 francs, from ship La Galitee, and was per-  
suaded to turn over the negro to Mr. de Cha-  
vannes, then Secretary of Council; in the un-  
derstanding that Mr. de C. would assume  
charges towards the Company. He refuses, and  
let him therefore surrender the negro and pay  
hire.  
Action allowed.
- April 1, 1731. **Remonstrance.** Sieur Michel retorts to Councillor  
No. 31<sup>54</sup>. D'Auseville's "defence" that since M., too,  
might lose papers in the case, he pleads to de-  
posit with the Council two certain money or-  
ders; to-wit: one of May 24, 1730, to Turpin  
or order, negotiable in peltry, No. 144, 20 francs  
and the other of July 7, 1730, to Michel or order,  
also negotiable in peltry, No. 155, 135 francs.  
Let Mr. D'A. likewise deposit his receipt from  
petitioner. Papers to be left at risk of D'A.  
No note by Court.
- April 3, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Joseph Blanpain claims 48  
1p. No. 31<sup>55</sup> francs and 14 sous from Cariton, tailor.  
See 31<sup>615</sup>. Action allowed.
- April 3, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Mr. Rossard claims 256  
1p. No. 31<sup>56</sup> francs from Durivage, due on a bill of sale.  
See 31<sup>611</sup>, 31<sup>84</sup>. Action allowed.
- April 3, 1731. **Petition to Recover Business Papers.** La Prade 1p.  
No. 31<sup>56</sup>. would have Mr. Herpin cited to deliver to La  
Prade certain acts, contracts and other docu-  
ments left by the late Mr. Rottot, whom La P.  
had empowered as attorney.

- April 4, 1731. **Testimony on Birthright.** Jean Baptiste Baudreau is aware that Claude Jousset de La Loire was the first male child born at Mobile, a dependency of this Colony. (J. B. B. is aged 62.)  
2pp. No. 31<sup>57</sup>.  
See 31<sup>37</sup>.  
Like evidence by Nicolas Chauvin de La Fresniere, aged 55. Claude was born about 26 years ago; his parents had arrived some years antecedently.  
François Carrière, aged 51, was acquainted with Claude's parents at the old fort of Mobile and knows of no other claimant to disqualify Claude. F. C. came to the Colony in 1704.  
Attorney General admits this evidence, and Court confirms his decision. Claude may see the same in its place.
- April 4, 1731. **Petition for Discharge from School Account.**  
2pp. No. 31<sup>58</sup>.  
See 31<sup>91</sup>.  
R. P. Raphael, acting as formal agent, and not personally, bought a house for school use at 3000 francs; from which account he seeks entire discharge, as the matter devolved either directly on the Company or indirectly on the settlers. Court had sustained R. P. R.'s position herein, but a new ruling was passed (July 21, 1730). (Passage destroyed by charring; fortunately a later document, of July 25, 1731, elucidates this obscure text in all particulars.)  
Attorney General alludes to letters patent of August, 1717.
- April 6, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Louis Baudmont alias Deslozier, sergeant, claims 40 francs of one Contois, due on his note of 6 December, 1730.  
1p. No. 31<sup>59</sup>.  
See 31<sup>784</sup>.  
Action allowed.
- April 7, 1731. **Arbitration Report.** Blanpain and Viger find that  
2pp. No. 31<sup>60</sup>.  
See 31<sup>49</sup>, 31<sup>69</sup>.  
François Larche owes Jacques Judix the sum of 174 francs and 17 sous. They should bear the costs in common.
- April 7, 1731. **Decisions in Sundry Suits.**  
1p. No. 31<sup>61</sup>.  
See 31<sup>56</sup>, 31<sup>53</sup>, 31<sup>55</sup>, 31<sup>56</sup>.  
1. Rossard *vs.* Durivage. For R.  
2. Caussy *vs.* Rossard. C. nonsuited.  
3. Thomas Caussy *vs.* Chavannes. Adjourned.  
4. Beaupré *vs.* Chavannes. Adjourned.  
5. Blanpain *vs.* Cariton. For B.  
6. La Prade *vs.* Herpin. For La Prade.
- April 9, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Surgeon Major Alexandre claims 137 francs of Mr. Rossard, as attorney for Duchesne estate.  
1p. No. 31<sup>62</sup>.  
See 31<sup>827</sup>.  
Action allowed.



April 10, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Joseph Blanpain claims 98  
1p. No. 31<sup>63</sup>.                   francs and 9 sous from Durivage, contractor.  
See 31<sup>787</sup>.                   Action allowed.

April 10, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Yves Guerret Durivage  
1p.                   claims 260 francs from Mr. Rossard, for bill of  
No. 31<sup>64</sup>.                   carpenter's work shown by annexed memoran-  
See 31<sup>781</sup>.                   dum.  
                  Action allowed.  
                  Duplicated, less memorandum.

April 10, 1731. **Petition of Recovery.** Yves Guerret Durivage  
1p.                   claims a residue account of 137 francs from  
No. 31<sup>65</sup>.                   Sansfacon.  
                  Action allowed.



## EDITOR'S CHAIR

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### THE DELAY IN PUBLISHING THE QUARTERLY

In order to keep the record straight, the present occupant of the chair feels impelled to say a few words about the delay in publishing the Quarterly. When we came into office in March, 1922, the number for October, 1920, had just been issued, the last indeed that received the supervision of our predecessor. We found material in the printer's hands for the succeeding issues but not enough to make one full number, of the variety and interest this publication should have. We also found that the Society had ordered certain things to be published but the manuscripts were not always available. In this situation we faced a serious problem, whether to skip the year 1921 and break the continuity of publication, or to gather up the material and complete the 1921 volume. For many reasons the latter seemed to be the proper course, and it was adopted, but not without misgivings as to our ability to catch up the two years in one.

We have labored zealously with contributors and printers, (and the latter have done all that could be expected) but those only who have had like tasks to perform understand the inertia we have overcome. However, the Quarterly for 1921 is now safely out of hand, including the preparation and printing of a title page and Index for Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This index will be furnished upon application to those who have saved the numbers as issued and who now desire to bind the volumes. They should be bound for they constitute a valuable repository of material for the history of Louisiana. In a short while these volumes will also have an intrinsic value for the collector of rare books, because only a limited number of copies are printed and the type is distributed after publication. Indeed, even now, we are constantly being asked to supply copies of the earlier issues and cannot do so.

Practically all the material for the 1922 numbers of the Quarterly is in the printers' hands and these will be published as rapidly as possible. The contents of this (January) number are an indication of the store of good things that we have gathered for 1922, and it is our purpose to maintain the standard we have



here set. The Quarterly will continue to depend largely upon our own students and scholars, but it will give more space to the material concerning Louisiana that is constantly appearing in our contemporaries. Everywhere, particularly in the United States, there is an extraordinary desire to gather, print and preserve historical material. The Chair reads many such publications, some richly endowed, and others, like our own, evidently sustained chiefly by the earnest and self-sacrificing labors of a few zealous students. These journals are constantly printing interesting and valuable articles upon incidents of our history and the Chair will be watchful to reproduce these things in the Quarterly whenever it is possible to do so.

It is not pleasant to make one's first bow to his audience with an apology and we are glad to be rid of that part of our duty. For the rest you must judge the new man in the Chair by his works and if he fails in these it will be only because his aims are greater than his strength.



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